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Inter-Arab Affairs

Clovis Maqsud Condemns U.S. Proposals at UN

JN0806115289 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Text] New York—The UN Security Council is currently holding extensive contacts on a draft resolution presented by the Nonaligned Movement on the aggressive Zionist practices against Palestinian citizens. The United States suddenly demanded amendments that would move the draft resolution from its true content and prevent any explicit condemnation of the criminal Zionist acts against defenseless citizens in the occupied territories. This will be in return for refraining to use the U.S. veto against the draft resolution. Dr Clovis Maqsud, Arab League UN representative, has made an exclusive statement to Abu Dhabi radio on these proposed amendments. Following is a recording of the statement:

[Begin Maqsud recording] These amendments are categorically rejected. They constitute a setback even to the usual U.S. position. Not regarding Jerusalem as occupied territory constitutes a flagrant challenge not only to the Arab world but also to the Islamic world and the entire world community. This is almost the first time the United States proposes to remove the subject of Jerusalem from the circle of the occupied territories. This is a serious deviation, and, therefore [words indistinct]. We will never accept that Jerusalem not be considered an occupied territory, and that it must be [word indistinct]. This also applies [words indistinct] of drawing a parallel between Israel's oppressive practices in the occupied territories against the intifadah [uprising] and what it terms as Palestinian (?terrorism). From this perspective, it can never be accepted to equate an intifadah that insists on its right to self-determination, freedom, and dignity, with a colonizing occupation army that wants to perpetuate its occupation and aggression. We [word indistinct] this stand, which equates the legitimate struggle of the intifadah with the organ of oppressive occupation. We are also very astonished with the amendments proposed by the U.S. delegation, particularly under these circumstances and at a time when we seek to develop the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, improve Arab-U.S. relations, and achieve further understanding. We have noticed moves in this direction, and therefore, we were surprised with such a development [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Tripartite Committee Ministers Arrive in Syria

JN0806120289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Text] Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh, and Arab League Assistant Secretary General Lakhdar Ibrahimi arrived in Damascus today on a visit to Syria. They were received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Nasir Qaddur, Assistant Foreign Minister Diya'allah al-Fattal, the heads of the Arab Homeland and Protocol Departments at the Foreign Ministry, the Saudi and Algerian ambassadors in Damascus, and the Moroccan charge d'affaires in Damascus.

In a statement to SANA, Moroccan Foreign Minister Abellatif Filali said: This visit comes in implementation of instructions from the chairmen of the Tripartite Arab Committee on Lebanon to contact President Hafiz al-Asad.

Filali added: We bear a message from King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, King Hassan II of Morocco, and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to brief him on the committee's working plan and the possible help and assistance that Syria could extend to this committee to solve the Lebanese problem.

Concluding his statement, Filali said: We hope, God willing, to reach final solutions to the Lebanese crisis and effect national reconciliation in Lebanon.

Al-Asad Receives Ministers

JN0906055189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] At 1800 yesterday, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh, Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal, and Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali, the representatives of the Tripartite Committee formed by the extraordinary Arab summit in Casablanca. The committee comprises King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, the custodian of the two holy mosques; King Hassan II of Morocco; and Algerian President Chedli Bendjedid.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs.

The three ministers delivered to President al-Asad a message from King Fahd, King Hassan II, and President Bendjedid on the committee's work.

During the meeting, the conversation revolved around the situation on the Lebanese arena and the task of the Tripartite Committee formed by the Casablanca summit conference.

The president confirmed Syria's principled position toward the Lebanese situation and its interest in helping the Lebanese brothers reach a national solution based on reconciliation. He also expressed Syria's interest in extending every possible assistance to the Tripartite Committee in its mission.

AEUC Secretariat Employees Reduced, Budget Cut

JN0806075589 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Jun 89 p 1

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR has learned from an Arab ministerial source that during the meeting it held in Amman yesterday, the 4-member ministerial committee of the Arab Economic Unity Council [AEUC] decided to reduce the number of the AEUC's General Secretariat employees to 46. It is worth mentioning that the current number of the General Secretariat employees is 61.

The cutback in the number of employees came in harmony with a resolution adopted by the ministerial committee that stipulates that the General Secretariat's annual budget should not exceed $1.15 million. The General Secretariat's budget for the year 1989 is $1.6 million.

AEUC Facing 'Drastic Situation'

JN0806100889 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8-9 Jun 89 p 6

[By Raniya 'Atallah, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Excerpt] Amman—Several Arab finance and economy ministers, gathered here for the 51st round of meetings of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU), Wednesday formally welcomed Egypt back into the Arab economic fold before a ministerial committee went into a closed-door meeting to discuss ways of saving the Amman-based economic body from its current liquidity shortage.

During the closed-door session, the four-member ministerial committee, which groups Jordan, Kuwait, Iraq and Syria, presented its proposed resolutions to the council and was expected to call for a reduction in the CAEU's 1990 budget to $1.25 million from a total of $1.6 million in 1989.

The council was also expected to review the activities of the secretarial [as published] general over the past six months, the economic situation in the Arab World and in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and to follow up on resolutions of the council's lastest meeting six months ago.

The 13-member CAEU, currently facing a "drastic financial situation," is owed approximately $4 million in arrears from most of its members, the council's Assistant-Secretary General Hasan Gharayibah said. He noted that this shortage incurred CAEU a $2 million debt.

Gharayibah told reporters that CAEU has already received $1.5 million from Iraq, Libya, Jordan, North Yemen, Syria and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), for the period 1985-1988.

Libya, which Wednesday assumed the rotating post of chairman, last week paid $915,000 in dues to CAEU, Kuwait, which finances more than third of the council's budget, has failed to meet its obligations towards the body, Gharayibah said.

Kuwait's arrears to the council stands at around $1 million while that of the UAE stands at half of million dollars.

Egypt was expected to send some $200,000 in payments frozen during the past ten years when its membership in the council was suspended after Cairo signed the Camp David agreement with Israel in 1979. Egypt's membership in the CAEU was reinstated last December even though Syria and Libya expressed reservations on the decision then.

The council's liquidity problems has prevented it from paying salaries to some of its 62 employees, Gharayibah said. "We hope that our critical situation will improve to enable us pay the salaries of our staff who have not received their wages since January 1989," he said. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Bal'awi Previews Dialogue With U.S.

PM0706105889 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 4 Jun 89 p 1

[Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi report: "PLO Representative in Tunis Tells AL-MADINAH: U.S.-Palestinian Dialogue To Be Held Next Thursday"]

[Text] Tunis—In an exclusive statement to AL-MADINAH, Hakam Bal'awi, PLO representative in Tunis, said that the third round of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue will be held on 8 June. He noted that during that round the Palestinian side will hear the U.S. Government's response to the memorandum which the PLO handed to Robert Pelletreau, U.S. ambassador in Tunis and head of the U.S. delegation to the dialogue with the Palestinians. Hakam Bal'awi added that the PLO maintains a clear and detailed position on the Shamir plan and everything concerning the election issue.

AL-MADINAH has learned in Tunis that during the third round, which will start in Tunis on Thursday, the U.S. side will focus on trying to persuade the Palestinian side to agree to the holding of elections in the occupied territories under international supervision, but without an Israeli withdrawal. In this regard, an authorized Palestinian source emphasized that the PLO rejects such an idea and insists on an Israeli withdrawal so that the elections can be held under democratic conditions.

Qaddumi on Talks

PM0906092689 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Jun 89 pp 1-2

[Zaki Musa report: "Faruq Qaddumi Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We Will Ask U.S. Delegation to Dialogue To Define Palestinian Rights Concept"]

[Text] London—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, has stated that the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, which enters its third session today, has not tackled the essential issues which the United States should address. In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from his residence in Tunis, Abu-al-Lutf [Qaddumi] said: The question of preparation for an international conference and the definition of the U.S. concept of Palestinian political rights mentioned by U.S. Administration officials are among the topics to be raised by the Palestinian delegation to the dialogue.

The Palestinian official said that the PLO will ask the U.S. delegation to urge its administration to put pressure on Israel to stop its acts of terrorism against unarmed citizens. The Palestinian side will also refuse to consider the election plan proposed by enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir last month except as part of a complete and specific peace plan with a timetable culminating in the declaration of an independent Palestinian state, because Yitzhaq Shamir's plan is only a way of circumventing the achievements of the people's intifadah [uprising], which has been raging for 19 months.

He said that the PLO will seek clarifications from the U.S. side regarding Secretary of State James Baker's call on the PLO to allow the Palestinians in the occupied territory to accept the election principle announced by Shamir, because the United States refuses to acknowledge that it is for the PLO to decide such matters or matters relating to the future of Palestinian territory.

He described the note submitted by the PLO to the U.S. ambassador before the start of the Casablanca extraordinary summit conference as a list of questions on a range of issues that the U.S. delegation to the dialogue had previously promised to convey to Washington and to provide answers for, in addition to an explanation of the PLO's position on Shamir's election plan, the question of raising the level of the dialogue, and other matters.

He said that the only way to hold elections is under the supervision of an international body such as the United Nations, in complete freedom away from the bayonets and constant terrorism of the occupation.

Other Palestinian sources expect the Palestinian delegation—which is headed by PLO Executive Committee Member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and includes PLO Executive Committee Member Dr 'Abdallah Hurani, PLO Political Department Director Abu-Ja'far ['Abd al-Latif Abu-Hijlah], and Palestinian Ambassador in Tunis Hakam Bal'awi—to ask the U.S. delegation, headed by U.S. Ambassador in Tunis Robert Peiletreau, to increase the number of delegation members in the near future and to raise the level of the dialogue at a later date.

'Arafat on Talks

JN0906120089 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 7 Jun 89 p 5

["Text" of news conference PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat held in Kuwait 6 June]

[Excerpts] [Question] The Casablanca summit was a summit of Arab reconciliations. We would like for you to tell us what happened regarding your reconciliation with Syria and whether this will reflct on Palestinian organizations in Syria.

['Arafat] The PLO's doors are open to all Palestinians who are committed to the Palestinian national decision and the PLO. This is the decision of the Palestine National Council [PNC], not my personal decision. The PLO is open for all Palestinians and for all those who were approved as members of the PNC. I, for example, did not prevent Al-Sa'iqah organization from attending the PNC conferences, and I will not prevent it if it wants to send a representative to the Palestine Central Council meetings next month. [passage omitted]

[Question] How far have the U.S.-Palestinian talks gotten? And what do you think of Baker's recent statements in which he talked about Palestinian legitimate rights?

['Arafat] Let me say that there is a difference between Baker's statements and those of Bush. The U.S. President talked about "an end of the Israeli occupation" and "the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people." Baker said: "Israel has to abandon its dream of a greater Israel." This, in itself, is a positive stand.

It is true that neither Baker nor Bush mentioned the Palestinian state, but we know that the state is not something to be given, but a right to be taken. Throughout the march of the Palestinian revolution, we have not asked that we be given something. We know that rights are taken, not given. But at the same time, we continue our dialogue with the U.S. Administration, considering it a reasonable development. This dialogue began according to an agreement between the U.S. Administration and myself through the Swedish foreign minister on 6 December 1988. It was followed by other meetings. I call on the U.S. Administration to deal equally with both sides to the conflict. It should deal with the Palestinian side in the same way and at the same level as it does with the Israeli side. [passage omitted]

[Question] Has Washington thought of opening a dialogue with the PLO before the intifadah [uprising]

['Arafat] The United States opened a dialogue with us for the first time in 1975.

[Question] Was that dialogue based on strength on your part?

[Arafat] Yes, it was. The U.S. delegation was headed by Vernon Walters, and the Palestinian by Khalid al-Hasan. Martyr Majid Abu-Sharar took part. The dialogue, which was held in Morocco, continued for many days. It was pursued, but Kissinger succeeded in stopping it. The second dialogue began between them and me in Stockholm and is still continuing. There was also an indirect dialogue between Vance and myself through Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Isma'il Fahmi. In fact, direct and indirect dialogues between the U.S. Administration and us never ceased.

[Question] Can it be said that the PLO is now holding its dialogue with the United States from a stronger position based on the intifadah?

[Arafat] We have never talked with the Americans from a weak position. Only stupid people hold contacts from weak positions. [passage omitted

Third Round of U.S.-Palestinian Talks Begins

NC0806143789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Excerpts] Tunis, 8 Jun (MENA)—The third round of U.S.-Palestinian dialogue has started in Carthage, in the northern suburb of the Tunisian capital. [passage omitted]

In an exclusive interview with a MENA correspondent in Tunis, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the PLO Information Department, stated that the Palestinian side will ask the members of the U.S. delegation to issue a political declaration of principles for both sides to agree upon. He added that the PLO prefers this declaration to be a U.S.-Soviet one, similar to that issued by the two superpowers on the Lebanese problem, and similar to the declaration of principles issued in 1977 by former foreign ministers Andrey Gromyko and Cyrus Vance.

The Palestinian official explained that the declaration of principles must include several points that were mentioned earlier by U.S. President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker. These principles include: Ending the Israeli occupation and recognizing the land-for-peace principle, UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the Palestinian people's political rights, and the need to hold the international conference on peace in the Middle East.

'Abd-Rabbuh noted that today's round of talks will deal with the U.S. response to questions posed by the Palestinian delegation in the second round of talks. He said: We expect to receive answers on the U.S. concept of the Palestinian people's political rights, particularly the right to self-determination, as well as of a closely linked settlement scheme that would lead to an integrated peace plan. This peace plan, he added, must guarantee Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories and prepare for an international peace conference. He proceeded: We also expect to know the U.S. position on Israel's persistent acts of terrorism, which are comitted at the rate of one massacre per week and the Israeli settlers' involvement in murderous and terrorist acts against Palestinians.

'Abdallah Hurani, PLO Executive Committee member, who participated in the previous U.S.-Palestinian round of talks, has stressed that the PLO will not be dragged into talking about "elections" under Israeli occupation and without international sponsorship. He noted, however, that it is possible to discuss the concept of elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip within the framework of an integrated peace plan. He explained that this possibility was referred to in the resolutions adopted by the Casablanca emergency Arab summit on 23 May.

Hurani pointed out that the declaration of principles can facilitate drawing up an integrated peace plan that includes clearly defined points and a timetable for implementation. He added that it is possible, within this framework, to discuss elections that link the democratic practice to freedom. However, he noted, looking to elections as the sole form of democracy is merely granting democracy to individuals and not to an entire people who practice democracy freely. [passage omitted]

PLO Source on Dialogue

LD0806163789 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Text] In Tunis this afternoon, the third round of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue has begun. Our correspondent Rafika Mahjoub is following the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue on the spot:

[Mahjoub] The dialogue has been going on for more than 90 minutes, as it started at 1215 in the conference hall at Carthage guest house. The delegations taking part in this third round are the same ones that took part in the two previous rounds hosted by Tunisia on 16 December and 22 march, that is, the Palestinian delegation is led by Mr Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee and head of its Information Department, [words indistinct], and Hasan [name as heard] Bal'awi, PLO representative in Tunis. As for the U.S. delcgation, it is again led by Robert Pelletreau, Jr, U.S. ambassador to Tunisia; Gordon Brown, first adviser at the U.S. Embassy [title as heard]; and [name indistinct], political adviser.

Contrary to the two previous rounds of talks, the two delegations this time sat around the same table. We have also noted the presence of the flags of both states, the U.S. and Palestinian, on a small table next to the negotiation table.

According to what we managed to gather from a Palestinian source close to the meeting, this round is taking place at the request of the U.S. side, in light of the ideas tabled by the PLO in a memorandum that Mr Hasan Bal'awi submitted last May [?to Mr Pelletreau]. The memorandum included the Palestinian position with regard to political developments, particularly the recent proposal by the Israeli prime minister on elections in the occupied Palestinian West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Palestinian memorandum also included questions regarding the U.S. position on matters such as the meaning of political rights that the U.S. Administration is talking about and also the U.S. position with regard to the international peace conference on the Middle East.

According to the same Palestinian source, the U.S. side is expected to demand some clarification from the PLO on its position concerning Shamir's plan, noting that the PLO sticks to the principle of rejecting elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip under occupation. The PLO demands that such elections take place only after occupation forces withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza Strip and under international supervision, and that this take place within a comprehensive plan aimed at settling the Palestinian issue. We are now still waiting for the two delegations to emerge from the meeting in order to know the results of this new round of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue.

Talks End 'Without' Results

LD0806172589 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Text] The third round of talks in the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue has concluded without arriving at tangible results concerning the positions of the two countries on the issues tabled for discussions, particularly regarding the Shamir proposal calling for elections in the occupied territories and the security situation inside occupied Palestine.

'Abd-Rabbuh on Talks

LD0806222889 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2020 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Tunis, 8 Jun (SPA)—The Palestinians and Americans have concluded their third meeting in the framework of the dialogue which began on 15 December. The meeting lasted 5 hours and was attended on the Palestinian side by a delegation headed by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee; and including 'Abd-al-Latif Abu-Hajla, director general of the PLO Political Department; and Hakam Bal'awi, PLO representative in Tunisia; and on the U.S. side by a delegation headed by Robert Pelletreau, Jr., and including Gordon Brown, a second secretary at the U.S. Embassy in Tunisia, and Edmund Hall, political adviser at the embassy.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said in a statement that the dialogue had covered important subjects, stressing that the organization had expressed its deep interest in the recent U.S. statements and positions, particularly those related to ending the Israeli terror, rejecting the policy of repression and expansionism, and ending the building of Zionist settlements.

He also said that the PLO also believes that the U.S. Administration shouldered a heavy political responsibility to complete the peace process in the Middle East, calling on the administration to promote its positions in a way that clarifies and guarantees the political rights of the Palestinian people. This would come, he added, through the exercise of the right to self- determination by the Palestinian people freely and without foreign interference, under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Mr Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh said that the problem of peace in the Middle East concerns many sides in the region and the world, a matter that confirms that serious negotiations can take place only in the context of an international peace conference on the Middle East, stressing that preparing for this conference has become a vital and necessary matter.

He added that in its dialogue with the U.S. side, the PLO underlined the position decided at the Casablanca Arab summit, which affirmed that elections could not take place in the shadow of occupation, and that they could take place only after an Israeli withdrawal and under appropriate international supervision. The Palestinian official affirmed that any political steps could take place only within an integrated peace operation that would lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state on the land of Palestine. 'Abd-Rabbuh added that the Palestinian side had urged the U.S. Administration to take clear and energetic measures toward Israeli acts of terror in the occupied territories, stressing that the Israeli wave of terror had increased since the recent visit of the enemy prime minister to the United States so that now there is a massacre every week against the sons of the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

Habash Cited on 'Uprising,' U.S.-PLO Talks

JN0806134289 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] On the occasion of the beginning of the 19th month of the intifadah [uprising], Dr George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], held a press conference in which he affirmed the PLO's eagerness to protect the intifadah so that it can achieve its objectives of freedom and independence.

Dr Habash viewed the U.S. Administration as one supporting Yitzhaq Shamir's plan, as made clear by President Bush's message to the Moroccan monarch during the Casablanca summit meetings. He said that he defies Yitzhaq Rabin on the issue of the continuation of the intifadah, as the conflict is a clash of wills as Habash said. He added that the Palestinian people will triumph as they have nothing to lose.

On the beginning of the third phase of negotiations between the PLO and the U.S. Administration, Habash indicated that the U.S. Administration will stress through its ambassador in Tunis the need to deal positively with the Shamir plan and will associate this with threats saying that the U.S. Administration will do nothing and might even end the talks initiated with the PLO if the PLO does not respond favorably to this plan.

Habash renewed his confidence that the continuation of the intifadah will force the U.S. Administration to deal, during these talks, with the issues on the basis of new givens which are an international conference and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

As for the resumption of the Syrian-Palestinian talks, Habash wished that these talks would begin at the earliest possible opportunity, as these talks would serve the Palestine qestion as well as Syria.

'Arafat Issues Message on 'Uprising' Anniversary

JN0806185289 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1608 GMT 8 Jun 89

["Text" of 7 June address by Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu-'Ammar, "president" of the "State of Palestine," to "his sons in the occupied Palestinian territories" in the 19th month of the intifadah (uprising); place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Truly did God fulfill the vision for his apostle: Ye shall enter the sacred mosque, if God wills, with minds secure, heads shaved, hair cut short, and without fear. For He knew what ye knew not, and He granted, besides this, a speedy victory. [Koranic verse]

Brother strugglers in the beloved homeland, in the diaspora, and the camps of pride and steadfastness in Lebanon; heroes of the blessed intifadah; you who are standing fast on the homeland's boundaries; the sons of our heroic Palestinian people; and sons of our great Arab nation, it is with great pride and loftiness, confidence in oneself and the people, and with hope and faith in a future in which our national and political objectives will be attained that our blessed and comprehensive intifadah ends 1 and ½ years of fierce confrontations with the occupier enemy. These are confrontations in which all the people—children, elders, men, and women, and all the sectors of our people—students, workers, peasants, landlords, academicians, and craftsmen are participating. They are putting on record this unique and unprecedented revolutionary experience—an experience in which our people and nation take pride, the experience of a confrontation with hearts full of faith and justice against these fascist and racist Zionist forces, which are equipped with the most sophisticated weapons and the most lethal weapons of destruction. They are waging these confrontations with a tireless determination and an inflexible will. They are fighting these battles with the comprehensive organization of every camp, village, city, and quarter, to make these continuous confrontations with the tumultuous waves of our blessed intifadah epical evidence that the people are capable of attaining their objectives, irrespective of the enemy's crimes and violations; its hatred and repression; its efforts, deception, and cunning; the stockpiling of weapons; and the manipulation of its armed settlers; and its economic and political conspiracies; which all founder against the rock of this legendary steadfastness, this deep faith, this inflexible will of our masses and our unified leadership. We greet our unified leadership, its popular committees, our popular institutions, and our strike forces from the depth of our hearts. They all rally under the banner of this cohesive national unity, and work is carried out in complete harmony and coordination among all the potentialities of the people in and outside the homeland, potentialities which are unleashed into revolutionary innovations that impose themselves on our enemy, thus pushing it toward defeat and making it commit one mistake after the other, thus placing it in one dilemma after the other. Thus, the enemy fumbles about and commits irresponsible criminal actions whether against our children and women, against our detainees, or even against our holy places. These criminal actions and the enemy's racist policies and practices have been denounced by the world at large, including its friends and allies.

The enemy's recourse to the gangs of its settlers who are sowing corruption on earth with a blind hatred and racism is a sign of weakness and the evidence of a domestic collapse and are not signs of strength. The racist decisions forcing the sons of our people to don special garments and a special badge are the sign of debilitation and unbridled lunacy. The attack against prophets, messengers, and against the Holy Koran are unforgiveable crimes and denote the enemy's weakness and not its strength.

These Israeli practices remind the world and reveal the dimensions of the fascist and racist character of this Israeli leadership, which founders in the dark labyrinths of discrimination, racism, blind bigotry, and backwardness. All this makes the Israeli leadership alien to the civilized values of mankind, places Zionism where it really belongs, and reveals its Nazi face as being a racist movement that no longer knows what to do, that the world condemns and denounces, and that our people are confronting.

O heroes of our blessed intifadah; O the beloved children, women, and men of my country; O steadfast people

in every position, camp, city, and village: The 18th month of our victorious, blessed intifadah has witnessed two events that deserve our consideration.

The intifadah and the Palestine question were the first topic on the agenda of the Arab summit conference held in Casablanca 2 weeks ago. This means that our intifadah is the focus of our entire Arab nation. This nation is committed to our intifadah, champions it, and gives it the material, moral, and political support that it deserves. As you all know, the summit conveyed thanks to the efforts of your brothers in the Palestinian leadership and the response of your Arab brothers.

As the case was in the intifadah summit held in Algiers 1 year ago, the Casablanca summit came to assert to the entire world the comprehensive Arab rallying around our just cause and struggle. This rallying is important, as it gives the blessed intifadah a new momentum and rejuvenating strength in the face of the occupation and its policies until this occupation ends soon, God willing.

Egypt's participation—with all its weight, size, and influence—in this summit gives the Palestine question a big and decisive momentum. It is Egypt's return to the Arabs and the Arabs' return to Egypt. We have struggled on all levels, until the strategic balance in our regional conflict has been restored. And the Arab reconciliations that took place in the summit was another reinforcement.

The Arab summit affirmed the commitment to support the intifadah. The Arab summit reiterated the support of the Arab nation led by Egypt, which has returned with its momentum, and Iraq, the capable and victorious country, for the resolutions of your Palestine National Council in its recent session 8 months ago in sisterly Algeria. The Arab summit blessed and supported the Palestinian peaceful initiative and the Palestinian move and formed a higher committee to follow this up.

The blessed intifadah of our people, the steadfastness in Southern Lebanon, the deep faith of our people, and this strong, and stubborn will have formed—together with the objectives of our revolution that are defined through reason—the tool that ended the stalemate and activated the issue forward on the path of victory. And the objective is to achieve our inalienable rights, including our right to repatriation, self-determination, and establishment of our independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. The just Palestine cause has, thus, become an essential topic on the agenda of all the meetings of the two superpowers as well as in every international meeting. Consequently, our cause each day gains new supporters and achievements, further isolates the enemy, and increases its failures.

It is now the battle of who will remain steadfast. Therefore, I challenge them with this resisting Palestinian child. The enemy talk and hinting at alternative options are illusions to throw dust in the eyes and to frighten our nation that no longer cares about these fears. The age of sudden wars and the age of stolen victories that were achieved through wars that lasted hours and days have ended. The age of real confrontation began with the glorious epic of steadfast Beirut—the epic in which the momentum of the occupation army was absorbed and this army was dragged toward confrontations that will end with its defeat.

The epic of Beirut and the steadfastness of your brothers in the camps of Lebanon as well as in Southern Lebanon have ended the swift and stolen victories. It is now the era of steadfastness based on the intrinsic power resulting from the presence and accumulation of the various kinds of conventional and non-convential weapons as well as the long-range and short-range missiles in the Arab region and the Middle East. Iraq's victory on the east flank of our Arab nation through a heroic 8-year epic added a distinguished momentum on the strategic level to this Arab momentum. This situation has emptied all enemy threats of their contents and placed the enemy in a new position. The enemy is now desperately defending a false dream in which it believed for decades—a dream that was supported by its allies who, these days, are calling on it to wake up and relinquish its dream to expand, disregard our people's existence, and disavow our people's legitimate national and political rights.

The second event is represented by attempts by the Israeli enemy and some of its allies to impose elections or other formulas on our people under various titles, temptations, and threats against our masses. The Israeli enemy is being supported in that by some of its allies.

The resolutions of the Arab summit are absolutely clear in this regard, in terms of supporting the Palestinian position on the elections, which must take place after the withdrawal of Israeli forces and under international supervision. They must be within a comprehensive peace process and a part of it. They must not be—as the Israeli leaders want—a process to control the intifadah and create the alternative leaderships of which they dream to approve their suspect plots against our people and their cause, and against their existence and future.

We ask the United States: Why did it approve an international situation in Namibia and now rejects such a situation in Palestine? Is the aim a repeat of the tragedy of the 1976 municipal elections? What was the destiny of those elected? Where are they now? It is said: once bitten, twice shy.

As for Israel's allies, who brag about democracy, have not they been repeatedly asked to mediate to allow the Palestine National Council [PNC] members representing our occupied land, and who have been elected to these municipal and rural councils, unions, societies, chambers of commerce, and who are national figures to take part in PNC sessions? However, they rejected that constantly. Moreover, the Israelis threatened and punished those who took part in the PNC sessions.

Our line is clear and the Arabs' decision is final on this issue. Democracy in our Palestinian arena is something which we take pride in and maintain. For our part, we pose the legitimate question: Can freedom be dissociated from democracy and from self-determination?

Brother strugglers; O heroes of sacred stones; O heroes of the intifadah; O heroes of strike forces; O members of all intifadah committees; you are urged to show further unity, organization, revolutionary discipline, revolutionary ethics, devotion, sacrifices, affection, sympathy, and love. These are the factors of victory. In this regard, I urge you to show further efficient organization and entrenched, strong unity. Avoid narrow organizational disagreements or tiny party gains. The end is greater than any organization. It is for the entire people. Under no circumstances and in no way must we show tolerance toward anyone who does wrong to the masses or tries to impose his organization's will on the interest of the masses.

Hence, I address everyone and all brothers and beloved ones. The unified leadership's calls are action guides, as we agreed. Every party, movement, or group has the right to air its opinions, but within the framework of the national unified action. Nobody has the right to impose himself on any citizen. All citizens are equal. The people are the stronger. They are our protective umbrella.

Therefore, I urge you to show further affection, respect, and sound revolutionary ethics. I urge you to complete the formation of charity councils in all camps, villages, and cities to solve people's problems. These councils should be made up from the best of you who can be always be consulted. I stress the need to go ahead with popular education. Educational committees should be active on all levels, especially after we have agreed to a special examination in October for the last year's [tawjihi] students, so that they do not lose an academic year.

I appeal to you to attach importance to kindergartens, as children are our beloved ones and our souls. Let the children come to me. O my beloved ones, I ask you to perform good deeds, to be pious, and to observe a high standard of ethics; as you are nowadays forging a heroic epic that is stirring the conscience of the entire world. Nowadays, you are inscribing the annals of history with letters of light and fire. Nowadays, you have a date with dawn, with victory; you, along with all of your brethren inside and outside the homeland, in the diaspora and in exile, and particularly in southern Lebanon, where your brothers are holding out with their hands on the triggers in the camps of pride and steadfastness in the face of the variables and the war scenarios prepared for the region and for Lebanon first and foremost.

O you, my beloved ones, we are all forging our new dawn and our victory that will come with this new dawn. We are not alone. Our Arab nation; our friends throughout the world; the free and honorable of the world; as well as our friends in the Nonaligned Movement member states, the African states, the Islamic states, the socialist bloc states, and the new friends in Europe and everywhere are all with us.

O my kinfolk; O my beloved ones—children, men, and women; O you valiant heroes: I salute you one by one and repeat it to you all one by one: to each child, to each woman, to each old man, to each man, to each worker, to each farmer, to each merchant, to each student, and to each academic, and I tell you all: In the name of God, we have initiated our revolution and our intifadah. And with the blessing of God, we proceed and continue. We will triumph, with God's help. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Therefore patiently persevere, as did all apostles of inflexible purpose; and be in no haste about the unbelievers. On the day that they see the punishment promised them, it will be as if they had not tarried more than an hour in a single day. Thine but to proclaim the message: But shall any be destroyed except those who transgress? [Koranic verse]

Greetings, all greetings to our heroic prisoners and detainees while stoically and proudly suffering, and yet while remaining gigantic, towering over their jailers! Greetings, all greetings to our valiant wounded who bite their wounds! Glory, all glory to our righteous martyrs! O you, 'Umar al-Qasim, you have joined the beloved Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] and your company of respected and revered martyrs. Together, with each other, and alongside each other, we will continue to proceed until victory to holy Jerusalem, the destination of the nocturnal journey of Prophet Muhammad, may God's mercy be upon him, the glory of Jesus Christ, may God's peace be upon him, and the capital of our state, the State of Palestine! They see it as a remote possibility. Yet, we believe that it will come into being soon. And we are the the ones telling the truth. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. And another favor will He bestow, which ye do love—help from God and a speedy victory. So give the glad tidings to the believers. [Koranic verse] Revolution until victory, until victory, until victory.

'Abu-Sharif on Need for Coexistence With Israel

OW0406112989 Tokyo KYODO in English 1054 GMT 4 Jun 89

[Text] Tokyo, June 4 KYODO—Coexistence between the Palestinians and Israelis is the only way to achieve peace in the Middle East, a top Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) aide said Sunday.

Bassam 'Abu-Sharif, a political aide to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, told KYODO news service in an interview that the Soviet Union, China, major European nations and others support peaceful coexistence between a Palestinian state and Israel.

Abu-Sharif, who arrived in Japan on Saturday to lecture on the Middle East in Niigata and Tokyo, also expressed his hope that the United States would support the idea of the coexistence in a meeting to be held between Palestinian representatives and U.S. officials in August.

The U.S. may eventually support the creation of the Palestinian state which 'Arafat declared in a meeting of PLO leaders in Algiers last December along with the de facto recognition of Israel's right to exist, he said.

Abu-Sharif, however, reiterated the PLO's opposition for elections of Palestinian representatives in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip where 70,000 Israelis have settled since 1967.

He said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir had made the proposal under the precondition that Israel cannot recognize a Palestinian state.

He said such an election could only be carried out under the supervision of U.N. organizations following the withdrawal of the Israeli troops which have been deployed in the streets of cities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip over the last 18 months.

Abu-Sharif is scheduled to leave Japan on June 15.

'Arafat Congratulates Gorbachev on Reelection

JN2805182189 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 May 89

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the State of Palestine, has congratulated President Gorbachev, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and CPSU general secretary, on his reelection as chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Brother Abu-'Ammar said in a cable of congratulations to Gorbachev yesterday: The Supreme Soviet Presidium's renewed confidence in your leadership reflects your people's trust in you and your new policy of perestroika, glasnost, and international detente and underlines their adherence to these wise policies as guidance along the road of development and construction. Congratulations to you on this confidence and congratulations to the peoples of the USSR for you and your policies.

He added: I seize this opportunity to express to your excellency, dear comrade president, my deepest gratitude and appreciation for your firm and principled support for the just struggle of our Palestinian people and their national popular intifadah [uprising] under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, for the elimination of the Israeli occupation and the establishment of our independent state, with holy Jerusalem as its capital. We trust that your new term will witness important developments toward achieving just peace in the Middle East and resolving the pending issues through the convening of the international peace conference on the Middle East and the establishment of the independent state.

He added: I stress to you our eagerness to continue cementing the bonds of common cooperation and the relations of friendship and comradeship between us in our common interest of consolidating means of international detente and achieving peace, security, and disarmament so that our peoples can progress toward progress and development. I renew my heartly felt wishes of good health, happiness, and success in leading the friendly people of the Soviet Union. My greetings to you as a great friend of the Palestinian people. Revolution until victory.

Al-Husayni, Abu-Rahmah on Shamir Election Plan

PM0706104689 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 2 Jun 89 pp 1, 19

[Ahmad Husayn al-Yami report: "Two Palestinian Officials Stress Palestinian People's Absolute Rejection of Shamir Plan"]

[Text] New York—Two prominent Palestinian officials have stressed the Palestinian people's absolute rejection of the plan of Yitzhaq Shamir, prime minister of the Israeli enemy. Both Fayiz Abu-Rahmah and Faysal al-Husayni said that the rejection is attributable to the fact that Shamir is playing for time in the hope of destroying the Palestinian intifadah [uprising], but the intifadah is steadfast and the enemy will not be able to destroy it. They told AL-RIYAD that the plan was drawn up in the first place for the Palestinian people to reject it. Shamir had such a rejection in mind when he set the conditions contained in the plan. If they accepted such a thing, it would be tantamount to political suicide. They also said: "We reject the plan because it rejects the establishment of the Palestinian state and talks with the PLO."

Faysal al-Husayni, director of the Jerusalem Arab Studies Center, said "that the plan rejects the existence of the Palestinian state, rejects talks with the PLO, and rejects Arab Jerusalem as part of the political process. All these things prompt us to reject the Israeli plan."

Answering a question from AL-RIYAD about the terrorist Yitzhaq Shamir's aim in presenting the plan, Faysal al-Husayni said: Shamir drew up the plan in order for the Palestinians to reject it. When Shamir set the conditions contained in the plan his first thoughts were about something for the Palestinians to reject. This, because if the Palestinians were to accept such a thing, it would be tantamount to political suicide for them.

Al-Husayni went on to say: Never at any time has Shamir been interested in any elections. His only objective is to gain time in the hope of destroying the intifadah. But the intifadah will not be destroyed. The intifadah is continuing and steadfast. The Palestinian people are capable of confronting Israeli repression.

With regard to the expected result of the rejection of the U.S. plan supporting the Zionist election plan, Faysal al-Husayni told Al-RIYAD: What the Palestinian people will experience in the occupied territories—and the world

will hear of it—are harsh and intensive repressive operations against us, but we are capable of standing fast. All we want from the Arab brothers is genuine backing for the intifadah. And here we confirm to everyone that by the end of this year the Israeli Government will be forced to change its policy, or else it will itself be changed.

With regard to the Palestinian rejection of the Israeli election plan espoused by the United States, Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, a Palestinian National Council [PNC] member and a lawyer in the occupied Gaza Strip, told AL-RIYAD: The Israeli Government plan is unacceptable to the inhabitants of the occupied territories, since they see it as a gross insult to the Palestinian plan presented by the PLO and expressed in PNC resolutions adopted in Algiers last November.

Explaining the reasons for the Palestinian rejection of the Zionist plan, Fayiz Abu-Rahmah said: The Israeli plan ignores the PLO and opposes the establishment of the Palestinian state, since Shamir told the Knesset that he does not intend to give the Arabs a single inch. The objective of the plan is to mislead, to portray an Israel that presents plans, makes no convulsive reactions, and works for peace—that is, in response to the Palestinian peace initiative.

Abu Rahmah told al-RIYAD: The Palestinians do not support any of those plans at all, and say that the elections must be held in isolation from the occupation and under international supervision. Through that plan Israel wants to rid itself of the international pressure applied as a result of the Palestinian peace initiative. This, because everyone says that the Palestinians have become moderate and now realizes that there is hope of finding a compromise and supports such a compromise. As for Israel, all it says is the word "no." It expresses nothing but rejection. This is why the Israeli Government came out with that plan, even though it knew that the Arabs would reject it. But the objective was to portray the Arabs as the rejecting side. But that will fool no one: Both the facts and the lies are clear.

Hani al-Hasan on French-PLO Consultations

JN0206123289 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 2 Jun 89

[Text] Hani al-Hasan, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, said today that the PLO will inform France about the results of the contacts that will take between the PLO and the United States in Tunis on 8 June. Hani al-Hasan said that it is only natural that the PLO inform France about the results of its contacts with the Americans. This will take place in an expected French-Palestinian meeting.

Hani al-Hasan met in Paris yesterday with (Jean Nusitelli), President Francois Mitterrand's diplomatic adviser, and (Jean-Claude Cousseron), attached to the office of French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas. The 2-hour meeting was attended by Ibrahim al-Sus, head of the Palestinian delegation general in Paris. Hani al-Hasan said that the meeting dealt with ways of promoting bilateral relations and expediting the peace process initiated by the Palestine National Council under Yasir 'Arafat in Algiers.

France and the PLO had agreed to form a French-Palestinian diplomatic group with the task of following up the political talks pertaining to the peace process following Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Paris on 2 May.

Mahmud 'Abbas Confers With UAE's Shaykh Zayid

JN3105193489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1455 GMT 31 May 89

[Text] Rabat, 31 May (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan al-Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, met at his place of residence in Rabat this morning with Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu Mazin, PLO Executive Committee member.

During the meeting, they reviewed the results of the extraordinary Casablanca Arab summit and the summit resolutions on Arab issues. They also reviewed the intensive efforts made by his highness with the Arab leaders during the summit to improve the Arab atmospheres and to help come up with a unified Arab position that would govern Arab moves during the forthcoming phase.

'Abbas and Shaykh Zayid also reviewed the Palestine question, its Arab and international developments, and the Palestinian political moves designed to help establish an independent Palestinian state. They also reviewed the continuous intifadah [uprising] being staged in the occupied homeland, and the endeavors to support and escalate this intifadah to enable it to realize its objectives.

OPEC Affairs

Kuwait To 'Act Responsibly' Toward New Accord

AU0806110889 Paris AFP in English 1052 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Text] Vienna, June 8 (AFP)—Kuwait does not feel bound by the new quota-sharing agreement adopted Wednesday by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), but will "act responsibly" in moderating its crude oil output, Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah said here Thursday.

On the accord, in which the cartel's 12 other members agreed to quotas restricting aggregate OPEC output to 19.5 million barrels a day (b/d), Shaykh Sabah said: "Kuwait made it clear that we agree to the other parts of the final resolution. But we don't agree to the part concerning quota distribution, and we don't feel bound by it."

Shaykh Sabah said it was "physically impossible for Kuwait to produce less than 1.35 million b/d." The agreement reached on Wednesday would give the Gulf Kingdom a quota of 1.093 million b/d for the second half

of this year, a slight increase on the current 1.037 million b/d allocation. However, the minister said, "We will use (our) freedom very responsibly. You will see our production dropping to the figure I have mentioned," he added, confirming industry reports that Kuwait's recent output has been in excess of 1.35 million b/d.

Meanwhile in a report published in Kuwait by the AL-QABAS newspaper, Shaykh Sabah was quoted as saying that the Kingdom had "won" at the Vienna meeting, and was "now free to produce the quantity of crude which will guarantee the country's interests." "We are responsible, and we will avoid producing quantities which would adversely affect the oil price," he added.

In London, however, the market reacted negatively to the flawed OPEC agreement, and North Sea Brent fell back to 17.35 dollars a barrel, from Wednesday's close of 17.70 dollars.

The OPEC meeting, which ended Wednesday, decided to review the new agreement after three months. The OPEC monitoring committee is due to meet in Paris on September 23 to review the accord.

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Announces Quota

JN0806192389 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Text] Vienna—Oil and Industry Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-'Athbi has announced that Kuwait's production quota will be 1,350,000 barrels per day [bpd] pending the meeting of OPEC's price control committee in September. The meeting will consider a redistribution of production quotas and Kuwait's request for raising its output share.

He told a news conference in Vienna and, cited by KUNA, this quota is the minimum Kuwait will produce under any circumstances, taking into account all the foreseeable and natural factors and the considerations on which OPEC distributes production share among its member states. Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah stressed that all of the member countries have, without exception, shown complete understanding of Kuwait's reservations as they figured in the text of the last agreement on the manner of distributing the quotas according to a percentage. He said all the countries have promised to discuss this problem at the coming meeting of the price control committee. Kuwait, he stressed, will use its production quota of 1,350,000 bpd with a total sense of responsibility out of its concern for the price stability and enhanced inter-OPEC solidarity and cooperation. Kuwait, he announced, will in the near future and as soon as possible seek to attain this production level. All the member states, he added, have been convinced of the arguments put forward by the Kuwaiti delegation to explain its demand that its share be raised. These countries have also accepted Kuwait's right to hike production. Kuwait has, in the past and for many years, made more sacrifices than any other country, and the time has come to find out for how much longer these sacrifices should be made. Kuwait, he added, will strive as much as all the other member states for cooperation and solidarity within OPEC.

Iraqi Oil Minister Praises New Agreement

JN0806111689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0845 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Text] Vienna, 8 Jun (INA)—Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi has described the outcome of the ordinary OPEC ministerial meeting, which ended in Vienna last night, as positive, whether as regards to the overall production ceiling during the second half of the year and the quotas of member states or as regards the price level.

In an exclusive statement to the INA correspondent in Vienna before leaving today, Al-Jalabi said that agreement was reached to set the production ceiling for the second half of the year at 19.5 million barrels per day [bpd] from a previous figure of 18.5 million. This, he said, is reasonably in line with supply and demand, noting that demand has increased over the past months of the year. He explained that the 1 million bpd increase in production was distributed among member states in the previous ratio, maintaining the same proportions set by the cartel. Al-Jalabi said: This will have a positive effect, particularly on prices. Everybody agreed that the reference price for the OPEC oil basket is $18 per barrel, rather than this figure being a target.

He pointed out that according to the new agreement, Iraq's quota increased from 2.640 million bpd during the first half of the year to 2.783 million during the second half, an increase of 143 million bpd. The principle of equality between Iraq and Iran quotas was maintained, he said.

He said the agreement is clear proof that OPEC member states are all determined to defend their legitimate rights and maintain the gains made after the total production agreement in November. It also shows insistence on stabilizing the market through limiting oil supply and cooperation with all other producers to support prices.

Al-Jalabi expressed the hope that the positive implications of this agreement will be reflected on the market in the near future.

He said it was agreed during the conference that the eight-man Ministerial Monitoring Committee will meet in Paris on 23 September to discuss the formulation of a long-term strategy, follow the developments of the oil market in light of the new agreement, and discuss the possibility of raising the production ceiling from 19.5 to 20 million bpd to reflect the market situation.

The 35th ordinary OPEC ministerial conference ended 3 days of meetings last night. The conference was preceded by a meeting of the eight-man Ministerial Monitoring Committee.

Egypt

Muslim Brothers Cable Condolences to Iran

JN0806135589 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
6 Jun 89 p 8

[Text] Muhammad Hamid Abu-al-Nasr, spiritual leader of the Muslim Brothers, has sent a cable of condolences to Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i on the death of Imam Khomeyni, leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Abu-al-Nasr expressed his condolences to the people and government of Iran, asking God to have mercy on him and to forgive him.

AL-AHRAM Cited on Iran's Future, Leadership

NC0906054489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2207 GMT
8 Jun 89

[Text] Cairo, 8 Jun (MENA)—In an editorial entitled "The Demise of Khomeyni and Iran's Future" to be published Friday, AL-AHRAM newspaper asserts that Egypt wholeheartedly stands by the Muslim people of Iran and prays that God may save them from the dangers of a bloody power struggle, in which the only loser will be the Iranian people.

In its Friday edition, the paper says that what concerns us is that any new Iranian leadership elected by the people should be conscious of all the past events and lessons, for which Iran has paid a heavy price in its young men, its economy, and its stability as a result of its pursuit of a losing and unjustifiable war.

The paper expresses hope that the next stage will bring an Iranian leadership that understands the necessity and requirements of a just and lasting peace and that will [word indistinct] sit at the negotiating table to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598.

The paper concludes: We hope that the people of Iran will emerge from their predicament and shock and turn their eyes to the future, recognizing the ongoing changes in today's world and the futility of following obsolete policies.

'Misappropriation' of U.S. Aid Reported

JN0806135789 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
6 Jun 89 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[Text] In a confidential report, the central audit organ has revealed a misappropriation of $5.5 billion extended by the United States over the past 10 years. The terms of this aid allow for the United States to intervene in Egypt's internal policies.

The report indicates that $30 million from these grants have been spent solely on U.S. experts.

Foreign Minister Visit Britain, Meets Thatcher

For reportage on the activities of Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, during his visit to the United Kingdom, including accounts of his talks with British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe and a London news conference, see the United Kingdom section of the 8 June West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

'Abd-al-Majid on Commitment to Palestinian Rights

NC0906093789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT
9 Jun 89

[Text] Kuwait, 9 Jun (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has emphasized that Egypt has not spared any effort nor refrained from offering all it can to serve the causes of its Arab nation. He pointed out that Egypt used to deal with the pan-Arab causes on a daily basis, despite its absence from the Arab League for 10 years.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti magazine AL-YAQAZAH, to be published tomorrow, Saturday, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid stressed that legitimate Palestinian rights will continue to be one of the supreme goals of Egyptian policy and that Egypt will never abandon them.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid noted that the Camp David accord was basically concluded for the sake of Palestine, and that when this agreement was signed the understanding was that it was possible to obtain rights. He noted that this is a viewpoint that cannot be the target of accusations.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid added that the Camp David accord restored Sinai to Egypt and opened the diplomatic path to regaining rights.

The foreign minister explained that the long struggle which Egypt waged for the restoration of sovereignty over Tabah was designed to make Israel and the whole world understand that the Arabs can never concede an inch of their land and will not accept bargaining over their rights.

Defense Minister on Joint Exercises With Jordan

JN0806082489 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
5 Jun 89 p 6

[Excerpt] General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, minister of defense and war production and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, yesterday attended one of the phases of the Egyptian-Jordanian joint air maneuvers code-named "'Ayn Jalut-3." The exercises began on 25 May and are scheduled to end on 10 June.

During yesterday's phase, the two warring parties tried to gain tactical air control through the use and administration of all air combat methods, beginning with surveillance, going through air battles, and ending with ground attacks against a diversified set of real targets.

The operations were carried out with the cooperation of the air defense units defending bases, airports, and other vital targets, and under the control of each side's guidance centres, using E-2C early warning aircraft.

In his speech at the conclusion of this phase, General Abu-Talib said the current Egyptian-Jordanian air maneuvers in Egypt underline Arab insistence on exchanging expertise and reaching and maintaining the highest levels of performance. History, he added, has recorded such high Arab levels through many previous battles, foremost of which was the success of the Egyptian Air Force in dealing effective strikes during the 1973 battles of liberation, not only against the tactical depth, but also against the entire depth. The success of these strikes, he noted, was the key to victory. He stressed that the Egyptian Air Force is in the service of the Arab power and all Arab pilots. Egypt, he said, is the home of the Arabs, and we, the Armed Forces, can defend our territories.

He said the planning for the joint air exercises was successful in introducing and integrating all elements necessary for competent and deterrent air forces. We saw the modern F-16, Mirage-2000, F-4 Phantom, F-5, and Alpha jet working together with surveillance planes and modern elements of electronic warfare.

He said the Egyptian Air Force had carried out joint exercises, which he himself had seen, with the land forces in the II Field Army Corps. This is in addition to joint training and exchange of expertise with other countries on the fighting ability and tactical use of modern fighter aircraft. This highlighted the high competence of the aircraft, the high skills of the pilots, and the accuracy in hitting the targets during yesterday's phase of exercises with Jordan, he said. [passage omitted]

IMF Requests Reduction in Prices of Exports

JN0806144589 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 Jun 89 pp 1, 8

[Unattributed report]

[Text] Economic sources have said that economic contacts have been made over the past few weeks between Egypt and the IMF. In these contacts, the IMF asked Egypt to increase its agricultural and industrial exports to the world by reducing their prices. Thus, the IMF indicated, Egypt can increase its foreign currency revenues, which can be used to repay some of its loans' due interest.

The IMF linked Egypt's response to this demand to any future loans.

The sources affirmed that in its reponse to the Fund's demand, Egypt affirmed the need to maintain the prices of its exports and imports. The sources indicated that the Fund's demand is counter to Egyptian economic policy which aims to maintain the national currency against other currencies. They described this demand as a non-economic one which might hurt the country's national income.

The sources attributed the IMF's demand to its desire to convince Egypt of taking this step in order to undermine the national currency, as it did to six Third World states in Latin America and Africa, where these states' national currencies declined seriously against other currencies, especially the U.S. dollar, given that it is the world's major currency.

Israel Said Behind Bombing U.S., UK Centers

JN0906061189 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 7 Jun 89 p 3

["Exclusive"]

[Text] Cairo—Well informed sources in Cairo have revealed to AL-ITTIHAD that investigations into the time bombs, which were targeted against the British and U.S. cultural centers in Cairo, have disclosed that three Israelis who arrived in Cairo recently on a 3-day mission are suspected of being behind these incidents, especially after their pictures were recognized by a number of the cultural centers' guards.

It is known that in 1954, Israelis placed such bombs in British and U.S centers in Cairo in what became to be known as the "Lavon Scandal."

Editorial Criticizes Baker Call on Resolution

JN0706141489 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 5 Jun 89 p 7

[Editorial: "A Point of Order"]

[Text] There is a point of order to be raised on the U.S. Government's demand voiced by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that the Arabs must stop equating Zionism with racism in order to help reach an understanding with Israel. This point pertains to the need to see reciprocity demonstrated.

The issue of equating Zionism with racism is enshrined in a UN resolution issued in the late seventies. That is, this is a resolution issued by the international community, and not by the Arabs alone. Israel came into existence through the Zionist political action. It must refrain from the perpetration of any terrorist acts or practices to spare Zionism the stigma of terrorism.

Some international humanitarian organizations likened the Israeli acts of repression in the occupied territories to the practices of Nazism which was based on racism. The latest news reports from the West Bank said that the mayor of the settlement of Ari'el issued orders obligating all Palestinian workers to stick badges on their chests identifying them as "alien workers." The Israeli newspaper 'AL HAMISHMAR published a picture of this

badge, eliciting strong criticisms from the Israeli Knesset itself. One of the Knesset members likened this badge to the yellow star badge which Hitler forced the Jews of Germany to wear.

This means that the outcries against the racist nature of Israeli practices are being voiced in the Israeli Knesset itself. Besides, the increasing brutalities being carried out by the Israeli troops and settlers in their confrontation of those staging the intifadah [uprising] has prompted many figures inside and outside Israel to criticize these brutalities branding them as transgressions smacking of racism. All this prompts one to wonder about the reason for branding such acts as well as the acts perpetrated by the former notorious [Zionist] gangs as racist. The nature of these practices and not the Arab stands nor the UN resolution qualifies them to be racist.

The Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular are affirming their adherence to all UN resolutions and pledging that they will implement these resolutions; and this is a commendable stand, as it respects international legitimacy and adheres to its resolutions. Why are the Arabs being implicitly asked to "abandon" one of these resolutions when they were urgently and strongly asked to accept UN Resolutions 242 and 338 and they have done so! And why is this demand being voiced at a time when Israel is not being asked to accept the UN resolutions on the Palestinian question! Moreover, Israel has rejected numerous UN resolutions. Nay, the United States, the party voicing this demand, was sometimes the only party alongside Israel rejecting some of these resolutions.

Commentary Assails Israeli Policy on Peace Plan

NC0806132389 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Muhammad Sharaf commentary: "The Major Fateful Challenges Facing the Arab Nation's People"]

[Excerpt] It goes without saying that the two most pressing Arab issues at present are the issue of peace in the Middle East, which is contingent on a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian issue, and the Lebanese problem. These two issues represent a real threat to general peace and security for the peoples of the Arab nation.

The issue of peace in the Middle East, in which the Palestinian problem represents the focal point, has reached a point where a just and comprehensive solution has become essential. It would be nothing new to note that the major obstacle to this goal is Israel's stand or, to be more specific, the stand of Israeli hardliners led by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. The PLO has presented the resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council last November, and the Casablanca emergency Arab summit offered all it could for the sake of peace. Hence it has become clear to the entire world that Israel is still not taking the peace process seriously. Observers who are aware of the real situation in the Middle East have realized that peace cannot be founded on Israel's expansionist policy in the occupied territories or its attempts to impose lasting Israeli hegemony over these territories, whether directly or indirectly.

Even the United States, Israel's strategic ally, calls for abandoning Israel's expansionist policy, halting the establishment of settlements, and relinquishing the old Israeli dream of the so-called Greater Israel.

However, it seems that Israeli leaders cannot or will not modify their stands to cope with the changes taking place in the region. All we can say is that things will take their proper course sooner or later, and that the current situation in the region, and in the world as well, will impose a just and lasting settlement and recognize the international legitimacy without which no peace can be established. [passage omitted]

Editorial Urges U.S. To Define PLO Rights

JN0806140589 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 5 Jun 89 p 7

[Editorial: "Neighbors!"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has urged Israel to regard the Palestinians as neighbors with political rights. Secretary Baker might have been more specific in his definition of the word "neighbors;" in Israel's eyes the Palestinians are mere residents of occupied territory that has either been annexed de facto or is threatened with annexation. Israel's rulers still reject outright the notion of giving up the occupied territories in the context of the land-for-peace formula.

In this context, the word neighbors is quite new: According to this designation the Palestinians may not be regarded permanently under occupation, with the natural, logical conclusion that they are discrete from the Israeli entity. Besides, in the lexicon of international diplomacy, the word signifies a people with an independent existence.

So what exactly do the Americans have in mind? Do they mean independent neighbors with borders of their own? Does it mean that their future is contingent on this independence and these borders? And will this new word enter the American dictionary and become so commonplace as to mark a new departure toward a resolution of the problem?

Also still shrouded in mystery is the term political rights which ought to underlie Israel's approach to its neighbors. To date, the American conception of these rights does not seem to us to extend beyond self-rule and the Palestinians taking charge of their domestic affairs short of sovereignty. Still less clear regarding these rights is the final phased settlement which the United States wants Israel to be clear about. Suppose the United States

upgrades the interim self-rule notion to a sovereign state so as to accommodate the term neighbors. The United States could perhaps be more specific!

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Senegal President's Envoy

LD0506084189 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0300 GMT 5 Jun 89

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution yesterday received the envoy of Senagalese President Abdou Diouf. The envoy handed to the leader of the revolution a written message from President Abdou Diouf.

CSSR Deputy Defense Minister Arrives 5 Jun

LD0506195389 Tripoli JANA in English 1752 GMT 5 Jun 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Sayf [June] 5. JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Maj. Gen. Miroslav Vacek the chief of the General Staff and first deputy minister of defence in Czechoslovakia and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli this morning on a visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

In a statement to JANA, Maj. Gen. Miroslav praised the development in relations between Great Jamahiriyah and Czechoslovakia pointing out that his visit comes within the framework of consolidation and strengthening the relations between the two friendly countries.

Cooperation Protocol Signed With GDR

LD0206183689 Tripoli JANA in English 1439 GMT 2 Jun 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Sayf [June] 2, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—This morning in Tripoli, a protocol of the Libyan Arab-German Joint Committee was concluded for economic, scientific and technical cooperation between Great al-Jamhriyah and German Democratic Republic.

This protocol was signed by the secretary of the People's Committee for Higher Education and Mr. W. Buschmann, minister of light industries in German Democratic Republic.

The protocol promulgates the promotion of cooperation in the economic, scientific and technical fields between the two friendly countries.

Morocco

Iraqi Foreign Minister Arrives With Message

LD0606001689 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 5 Jun 89

[Excerpts] The Iraqi foreign minister, Tariq 'Aziz, arrived this afternoon at Rabat-Sale Airport. [passage omitted] On the aims of this visit, he gave the radio the following statement:

[Begin 'Aziz recording] I was entrusted by President Saddam Husayn to carry to his brother King Hassan II a written message containing an invitation for his excellency to his brother his majesty the king to send an envoy to take part in the great campaign for the reconstruction of the heroic town of al-Faw. This event is to take place on 25 June.

Iraq—with its leader at the forefront—would like the participation of the Arab brothers in the reconstruction of this town liberated from Iranian occupation.

Furthermore, President Saddam Husayn has asked me to convey to his majesty ideas and information on issues of concern related to the pan-Arab situation and the work of the summit conference held in Casablanca. [end recording]

Meets With Hassan, Departs

LD0706054189 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 6 Jun 89

[Text] The deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Iraq, Tariq 'Aziz, left Rabat this evening. The Iraqi envoy made the following statenment to the radio:

[Begin 'Aziz recording] Today I had the honor of meeting His Majesty King Hassan II. I conveyed to his majesty a message from his brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, the president of the Republic of Iraq. I also gave his majesty some thoughts and information which President Saddam Husayn had asked me to present to his majesty. They concern Arab affairs and the proceedings of the Casablanca summit.

I am very happy with the meeting which I had the honor to have with his majesty. His majesty asked me to convey his fraternal greetings to his brother President Saddam Husayn. He also entrusted me with his thoughts and assessments of the subjects which we had discussed. [end recording]

Mr Tariq 'Aziz was seen off at Sala Airport by the director of Arab Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Abdellatif Moulin, and Iraqi Ambassador in Rabat Samir al-Najm.

Sudan

Former Assembly Speaker Muhammad Interviewed

PM0606092089 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Jun 89 p 4

[Interview with former Constituent Assembly Speaker Muhammad Yusuf Muhammad by unidentified correspondent in Jeddah; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Unidentified correspondent] What are the main reasons for your resignation as Constituent Assembly speaker?

[Muhammad] Right from the beginning the opinion of the [National] Islamic Front [NIF], to which I belong, has been that the post of assembly speaker should be independent. But parliamentary and political blocs would only make it a partisan position. And when the accord government was formed, the position was allocated to the NIF. This is why it was natural for me to submit my resignation, as long as the front decided entirely of its own accord not to participate in power.

[Correspondent] Why did the NIF decide not to participate in power?

[Muhammad] Because the charter on the basis of which the accord government was formed collapsed and was replaced by a program inconsistent with the NIF's line. Furthermore, the assembly's decision to obstruct the Islamic Shari'ah strengthened my decision and determination to resign.

[Correspondent] Was the assembly's decision to obstruct or postpone the Shari'ah until after the constitutional conference?

[Muhammad] The assembly's decision is illogical. This, because the line of the rebel government [as published] led by Garang does not believe in any settlement of the religious question. It is a liberation movement whose objective is not to resolve the southern problem, but which has other aspirations and new objectives other than the concept of the southern problem which we have known since 1955 and which actually ended in 1972 with the granting of autonomy to the south. So the southern problem was resolved constitutionally and legally, but some of the partial problems which remained could have been discussed and an agreement could have been reached among southern and northern parliamentary blocs. But the Garang movement has transcended that issue and called for something new, namely, Sudan's liberation from Arab and Islamic hegemony on the grounds that Sudan is the real outlet and crossing point for the Arab and Islamic culture toward the African world. This is why the Garang movement emerged with backing from the church and all colonialist forces, in order to close the outlet for Arab and Islamic culture. On that basis the Muslim masses in Sudan understood that role and the situation in the South and decided, through the criminal law, not to apply the Islamic Shari'ah in that part of Sudan—something which was accepted by some influential figures in the south. But it is illegal for the assembly to obstruct that plan and its benefits only the Garang movement. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Do you not expect the constitutional conference to be convened first?

[Muhammad] On the basis of the present situation and day-to-day events, as well as the many concessions which the government has made to the Garang movement through the Council of Ministers, parliament, and the parties, I do not expect Garang to take a single step toward peace. In fact I expect him to continue his arrogance and aggression against both territory and honor. I also expect a further military escalation on his part, since he does not believe in the language of peace but in the language of war. Military positions have fallen to John Garang as a result of hesitation and indecision. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Why has the NIF decided to stir up ordinary people against the Sudanese Government?

[Muhammad] The NIF found itself forced to do so because of the government's surrender to John Garang, his supporters and followers, and those hostile to the Islamic Shari'ah and because of the serious danger which has begun to dominate the Sudanese scene.

[Correspondent] Would such a line not abort the democratic system?

[Muhammad] The Front's approach in leading the alternative line is backed by the democratic system. It is an attempt to awaken the conscience of the Sudanese nation and to unite national Islamic ranks in order to restore Sudan's dignity, liberate the territory, and repulse the rebels.

[Correspondent] What is the meaning of [NIF Secretary General] Dr Hasan al-Turabi's call for people to maintain the jihad through seminars and lectures?

[Muhammad] Sudan currently faces an imminent threat, and the jihad represents Muslims' readiness to deal with the dangerous situation facing Sudan. If the south falls to Garang the next stage will shift to the north. On that basis, we have called for the jihad in order to regain dignity, honor, and territory. For our part, we asserted the principle of maintaining the jihad through popular struggle under the Armed Forces' umbrella and direct supervision. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] How do you visualize a solution to Sudan's problems?

[Muhammad] Sudan's problems can be resolved by a strong national rule which first declares war on the rebellion and can then start leading the country with a National Islamic approach. There is no room for weak states in the world, because the world only respects the strong. [passage omitted]

African Parties Bloc Spokesman Interviewed

PM0806135489 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 5 Jun 89 pp 20-21

[Interview with Yuhannis Akol, official spokesman of the Sudanese African Parties Bloc, by Abu-Bakr al-Siddiq al-Sharif in Omdurman; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Sharif] What is the position of the Sudanese African Parties Bloc on the peace initiative, and to what extent do you bank on it?

[Akol] First of all, it seems necessary to explain certain concepts to avoid confusion. Within the Constituent Assembly there are a group of southern parties headed by Aldo Ajo. We represent the Sudanese African parties because we include the National Party of South Kordofan as well as the southern parties. So we represent most of the southern parties. With regard to your question, we unreservedly support the Sudanese peace initiative, with all its clauses, signed between the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] and the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] on 16 November 1988. We believe that peace can only be achieved through the anticipated constitutional conference.

[Al-Sharif] How far do you depend on it?

[Akol] We do not depend on unknowns. But we consider that if it were to be implemented in full, peace would find its way throughout this homeland which the civil war has exhausted. This requires that the Sudanese forces attend the constitutional conference with well prepared and complete dossiers. This, because we believe that the constitutional conference's agenda will focus on issues such as the distribution of wealth and power, the definition of a Sudanese identity, and the question of the Sudanese state that has still not been formed. These are the pressing problems which must now be settled via a national consensus and with everyone's participation. So our investment depends on everyone's commitment to the foregoing. And we believe that the Sudanese people as a whole share our view.

[Al-Sharif] What is your opinion of the Constituent Assembly's response to one of Garang's most important conditions, represented in its decision to suspend the criminal law?

[Akol] We consider it a sound decision in the right direction that serves the peace efforts, even though it came late. But it is better than nothing. It salvaged what could be salvaged. We believe that it is a courageous step toward peace, since it has removed one of the obstacles hampering the peace process. I mean Article I, which demands that no Islamic laws be passed until after the constitutional conference. That decision will inevitably cause efforts to be concentrated on direct contacts and on forming a preparatory technical committee to look into the laws of the joint sector, ways of achieving a cease-fire, and the convening of the constitutional conference. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sharif] Do you expect the emergence of obstacles to the peace process?

[Akol] One of the obstacles which we expect to emerge is the present position of the National Islamic Front, which departed from unanimity and refused to sign the phased program of the unified front government. Then it produced slogans expressing clear hostility to the decision concerning the criminal law, on the pretext that Islam is in danger and the Islamic state has lowered its flag. So informational efforts are needed and efforts have to be united, because the peace process requires that efforts be pooled locally, regionally, and internationally. We hope that all brothers will take note of this. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sharif] Some political analysts believe that the ongoing war in the South is attributable to the identity problem: Arabs in the north and blacks in the south... Islam here and Christianity there. What is your opinion?

[Akol] Despite its name, the Sudanese African Parties Bloc has nothing to do with race or stock. It has a cultural meaning. On that basis, we emphasized in every way that the war in the south has nothing at all to do with race or religion. It due to the fact that some regions of our country have been isolated, while others have been granted more power and wealth than they deserve. So it is a war for a just distribution of power. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sharif] There is talk of exchanging the Eritrean card for Ethiopia's participation in the peace process.

[Akol] We consider such talk illogical. This, because the Eritrean problem differs from that of the south of our country. Every problem has its own historical roots, and it is difficult—in fact impossible—to cut these roots for the sake of temporary solutions. The Eritrean problem is something else. The war of the south has its own characteristics as a civil war which has expanded to include South Kordofan. The Blue Nile region and even East Sudan have begun to demand the same thing, namely, a reshaping of the power structure in Sudan. So our problem is purely Sudanese and cannot be bargained over. And it is impossible to achieve its solution outside Sudan.

In our view, the Eritrean problem is associated with Ethiopia. We believe that they must sit at the negotiating table in order to end that problem. And we bless the Sudanese efforts made in that regard. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Cited on Relations With Kenya

EA0606150089 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2145 GMT 5 Jun 89

[Text] The Kenyan president, Daniel arap Moi, has directed Kenyan Foreign Ministry officials to work toward improving relations with Sudan, which underwent a period of strain recently. Presenting a report to the ministerial peace committee, Dr Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said: The Kenyan president denied that his country was assisting Garang's movement and pointed out that Sudan and Kenya both stressed the need to strengthen bilateral relations between them.

Bahrain

Foreign Minister Returns From GCC Meetings

JN0706165789 Manama WAKH in English 1630 GMT 7 Jun 89

[Text] Manama, June 7 (GNA)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak al-Khalifah and his accompanying delegation returned home today from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia after presiding over the 31st session of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] Ministerial Council meeting concluded there today.

Shaykh Muhammad stated that the Council reviewed Arab, regional and international dedvelopments in light of the stands taken by the Supreme Council in its ninth session in Bahrain, in addition to the resolutions of Casablanca summit.

In a statement to GULF NEWS AGENCY, he said that the council centered its discussions on the contacts Bahrain has made on the stages of Iraq-Iran negotiations to implement Security Council Resolution Number 598.

He added that the Lebanese issue was also discussed thoroughly in line with the Casablanca resolutions, and that the council expressed total satisfaction to the formation of the three-member supreme committee assigned to find a solution to the situation in Lebanon.

He indicated that the council also saluted the heroic struggle of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab lands, and expressed hope that the three-member committee's efforts will realize its goals.

The Bahraini foreign minister also pointed out that the council was briefed on the minutes of the various ministerial committees.

Oman

Sultan Receives Iraqi President's Letter

JN0806143989 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id has received a letter from his brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn of Iraq. The letter was given to His Highness Shaykh Fahar Ibn-Taymur al-Bu-Sa'id, deputy prime minister for security and defense by an emissary of the Iraqi president: Justice Minister 'Ali Akram 'Abd-al-Qadir.

PDRY

Iraqi Minister of State Visits Aden

EA0706191389 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 6 Jun 89

[Text] Brother Arshad al-Zibari, Iraqi minister of state and personal envoy of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, arrived in Aden this evening on a brief visit to Democratic Yemen during which he will convey a message to brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, from his brother, Saddam Husayn, president of the Iraqi Republic.

In a statement to the ADEN NEWS AGENCY, Brother al-Zibari explained that the message contains an invitation to participate in the special festival for inaugurating the national campaign for the reconstruction of Al-Faw—which is scheduled to begin on 25 June—in addition to the bilateral relations between the two countries. He was received by Brother Dr Salim Abu-Bakr Ba Salim, minister of education, and the Iraqi ambassador in Aden.

United Arab Emirates

Minister Returns From GCC Meetings 7 Jun

JN0706165489 Manama WAKH in English 1615 GMT 7 Jun 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, June 7 (GNA)--UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah returned home today from Riyadh after attending the meeting of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] Ministerial Council.

Rashid 'Abdallah said his counterparts from Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait and Oman discussed the Gulf situation and the Lebanese and Palestinian problems. They expressed support for U.N efforts to push forward the peace talks between Iraq and Iran to restore stability and security to the region, 'Abdallah added.

He said the ministers, who concluded their talks earlier today backed the efforts of an Arab League committee to tackle Lebanon's 14-year-old crisis. The committee, grouping the heads of state of Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria, was set up at the Casablanca Arab summit in May 23-26.

'Abdallah said the Jeddah meeting appealed to concerned parties in Lebanon to cooperate with the committee to reach a settlement that will enable Lebanon to regain its sovereignty, integrity and Arab identity.

Concerning the Palestinian issue, the ministers praised the Palestinian struggle against Israel in the occupied territories and expressed support for the 18-month-old uprising, 'Abdallah said.

Yemen Arab Republic

Minister Returns From South Yemen Visit 8 Jun

JN0806202489 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Text] Brother Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for unity affairs and Standing Committee member, returned to Sanaa today following a short visit to the southern part of the homeland.

In a statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY, he said that he conveyed during this visit a message from brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, to his brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party in the southern part of the homeland, on bilateral coordination and consultations on topics related to unity between the two parts of the homeland. He indicated that Al-Bid asked him to convey a reply message to the brother leader and secretary general of the General People's Congress.

Hungarian Foreign Ministry Delegation Arrives

JN0906065289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Excerpt] A delegation from the Hungarian Foreign Ministry, headed by Emile Kojos, director general of the Consular Department [name and tile as heard], arrived in Sanaa today on a visit to our country. During the visit, the delegation will hold talks with a number of brother officials at the Foreign Ministry. Also, a consular agreement between the two countries will be initialed. [passage omitted]

'Source' Denies Contact With Israel

JN0806182089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1724 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jun (INA)—An information source in the Ministry of Culture and Information here today said that what is being published in the media linked with Zionism confirms one basic fact; namely, that all these lies and fabrications are being published at the full instigation, and in fact with the guidance, of the circles which harbor designs against Iraq and the Arab nation—land and people.

This came in a comment on and a denial of what was published today in the British publication FOREIGN REPORT. The publication claimed that Iraq sent a message to Israel this week requesting secret help.

The spokesman affirmed that such ridiculous and empty lies is mere wishful thinking by Zionism. He added that Zionism already knows Iraq's clear and frank attitude toward the Zionist entity, which is occupying Arab territory and practicing the most hideous and bestial methods on it in an attempt to obliterate its history and culture and to kill its people.

Oil Minister Returns From OPEC Meetings

JN0906094589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Jun (INA)—Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi returned to Baghdad at dawn today after leading the Iraqi delegation to OPEC's 85th ministerial conference, which concluded its meetings in Vienna the day before yesterday.

The minister told INA that during the meetings the ministerial conference reached a comprehensive production agreement, under which the production ceiling will be raised from 18.5 million to 19.5 million barrels per day during the 2d half of this year. The increase will be distributed among the member states according to their quotas.

The Iraqi delegation attended the eight-member ministerial committee's meetings, which were held before the conference. The committee was entrusted with following up the developments in the oil market and the member state's adherence to their production quotas.

'Aziz Receives U.S.-Iraqi Working Committee

JN0806125089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jun (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received the U.S.-Iraqi Working Committee led by Robert 'Abbud. During the meeting that was attended by the U.S. ambassador in Baghdad, the conferees discussed ways to develop and expand aspects of joint cooperation between Iraq and the United States in the fields of economic cooperation and trade exchange in light of the great development trends in Iraq.

Antiquities Exhibition Planned

JN0806145489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1410 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jun (INA)—Robert 'Abbud, chairman of the U.S.-Iraqi Working Committee, has expressed his satisfaction as well as that of the accompanying delegation with President Saddam Husayn's agreement on organizing a mobile exhibition of Iraqi antiquities in the United States. Robert 'Abbud added at a news conference held here today in the presence of Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, the U.S. ambassador to Iraq, and newspapers' correspondents that the U.S.-Iraqi Working Committee has been trying throughout the past 5 years to familiarize the American people with the Iraqi civilization in Mesopotamia through this project that has been agreed on. He noted that the world today greatly respects the human civilization in Mesopotamia.

The chairman of the working committee said that the implementation of the project "Mesopotamia: The Cradle of Civilization" and the organization of the mobile exhibition of Iraqi antiquities in the United States are a big project. This project, he added, will lay down the bases of Iraqi-U.S. relations and pave the way for their development in all fields.

Robert 'Abbud added that this project is an opportunity to familiarize the American people with the contents of the human civilization and the organization of the human life throughout history, as well as the laws, arts, agriculture, and trade that prevailed in Mesopotamia.

Trade Minister Leaves for Poland 9 Jun

JN0906083689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Jun (INA)—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih this morning left for Warsaw to attend the opening of the Poznan International Fair, which will be held in Warsaw the day after tomorrow, Sunday, and which is expected to last for 7 days.

The minister will hold talks with a number of Polish officials which will aim to improve trade relations and economic and technical cooperation between the two countries.

'Arafat 'Gimmick' on Elections Question Seen

TA0806140589 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 8 Jun 89 p E2

[Commentary by Moshe Zaq: "Preparing for a Hot Summer;" passages in bold as published]

[Text] **"These recurrent attempts to infiltrate (Israel) are most distressing."** While choosing her words carefully, and evincing extreme caution, so as not to hurt the PLO's feelings—God forbid—the State Department spokeswoman expressed the U.S. Administration's unhappiness with the terrorists' attempts to attack the northern settlements.

Not a word was said about the identity of the terrorists. She merely said: **"We urge those responsible for the deed to avoid incidents that can only result in more violence and bloodshed."** The U.S. Administration carefully avoids pointing the finger at those responsible for the deed. This is because it does not want to be forced to cancel the planned meeting in Tunis with the PLO delegation, which includes representatives of the organizations that participated in planning and dispatching the terrorists on murderous operations against the northern settlements. This timid phrasing also allows the State Department to proclaim: **"The PLO does not tell us who to send as our representative to the dialogue, nor are we telling it who to send."** Well, no, not in public, but in diplomatic contacts the U.S. Administration proudly notes that thanks to it, Fatah under 'Arafat no longer engages in terrorist activity. Other organizations, however, grouped under the PLO umbrella—in fact, organizations that will be represented in the meeting with the U.S. ambassador in Tunis—openly confess their role in these terrorist operations.

The U.S. State Department is prepared to give Yasir 'Arafat the kosher stamp, arguing that his Fatah organization does not participate in the terrorist attacks along Israel's northern border. At the same time, however, it relieves another Yasir—Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, whose organization is responsible for the terrorist attacks—of any responsibility for the attacks on the pretext that the dialogue is being conducted with the PLO as an organization, not with individual members." [no opening quote marks as published]

When someone in Israel came up with the ill-considered idea of issuing identification tags to permit entry into settlements in Samaria, an idea which the cabinet ministers rejected forthwith, the State Department nevertheless rushed to voice criticism of Israel. Yet, even though the PLO representative to the talks with the United States is a leader of the terrorist organization who is presently actively involved with planning terrorist operations against Israeli civilians, Washington stumbles when it comes to pronouncing his name. All it can say is that "it is urging those responsible for such operations to refrain from them." Not a word about their identity.

In fact, just as he had no qualms about publicly renouncing terrorism, 'Arafat has no problem agreeing in principle to elections in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Having found the loophole in the definition of violent operations against Israel by terming them "a national liberation struggle," he could accede to U.S. demands on terrorism. He encountered no difficulty separating himself from terrorism after excluding the intifadah [uprising], operations against soldiers, and other acts aimed against Israeli military targets from the catchall term, terrorism. The tacit U.S. acceptance of the "armed struggle" thus became his award, cannily wrested for uttering his verbal renunciation of terrorism.

He has theoretically abandoned terrorism outside the region—he actually gave it up long ago—in exchange for graft and political recompense from the European governments. He never relinquished the option to engage in terrorism once again as a means of political extortion. He can thus play "the good boy" who purports to renounce terrorism, and at the same time heartily enjoy its fruit. The same applies to the idea of elections. Initially, he raised a ruckus against accepting elections in any shape or form as long as they are held under the shadow of the Israeli conquest. This position was supported by Me'ir Wilner in the joint communique issued in Prague. Yet the moment he realized that the elections could be an ax to grind, he applied the same gimmick to the plan for elections in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza that he employed with regard to terrorism. He found a formula that enabled him to say yea to elections, and nay to Shamir's plan. 'Arafat understands that the Americans are relishing their achievement of luring even nations beyond the Iron Curtain to the notion of democratic elections, and it will be tough to publicly oppose elections in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Therefore, he is prepared to dance to the American tune, and chime in along with the self-congratulations, making out that he is tempted to accept these elections, for a price. This does not, however, mean that he accepts Shamir's plan, which is based on Palestinian acquiescence to an interim agreement in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

The truth is that the PLO never rejected the idea of elections in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. On the contrary, it suggested them even before the Israeli initiative. The object of these elections was to determine the representation of the inhabitants of the territories in a Palestinian government. The PLO is prepared to use the elections to obtain its goals. Even now it links its agreement to hold elections to an acceptance of its conditions. If the PLO succeeds in confusing world public opinion, and in convincing it—with the help of U.S. diplomats—that it has given in to the United States and now agrees to hold elections, Israel will face a problem not unlike the one it encountered after 'Arafat's declaration in Geneva. This is because the Israeli information machine has placed too much emphasis on the idea of holding elections, rather than highlighting the notion of an interim arrangement.

Yitzhaq Shamir currently faces the same dangers that ensnared Shim'on Peres when he found himself entangled in the web of the international conference. Peres initially accepted Mubarak's demand for a preparatory committee as a tactical move to warm relations with Egypt. Gradually, however, the tactical move became a goal onto itself, creating the impression that Peres was the father of the notion of the international conference, whereas in fact it was a Soviet-Arab plan.

The idea of elections was not conceived by Yitzhaq Shamir, or even Yitzhaq Rabin. It was first suggested by the PLO as a means to promote the idea of a Palestinian state. Shamir adopted the idea of elections to guarantee that the path of an interim arrangement, abhorrent to the PLO, will prevail. A senior U.S. source in Washington admitted in a conversation with an Israeli minister that the U.S. Administration was surprised by Shamir's readiness to hold elections in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Indeed, this was a far-reaching concession, but it must not be taken out of context. Those who are interested in elections must first accept the idea of an interim arrangement. This is, after all, the basis for elections. Those who try to enlist support for the idea of elections on any basis other than that are misinterpreting the Israeli initiative. Shamir will have to demonstrate supreme foresight and alertness to curb such a development.

We should soon expect a rush of "glad tidings" announcing acceptance of elections by various elements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Butrus Ghali will bring to Jerusalem an Egyptian declaration that the Casablanca conference did not reject the idea of elections; the Americans will promise Israel that Gorbachev has no objection to them; and the Americans will furthermore make efforts to squeeze a pronounced consent to these elections out of the PLO. This should not be seen as Arab readiness to accept the Israeli initiative. It conceals an Arab attempt to upset the applecart and retrieve the momentum that was forfeited upon the publication of the Israeli initiative. An acceptance in principle of elections is not the key to a solution. The elections are merely the tool, and everything depends on who wields this tool, and for what purpose.

The PLO wants it to be a hot summer, and for terrorism to provide the background music as international deliberations on the crisis get under way. The repeated anti-Israel UN Security Council debates constitute a convenient setup for the armed struggle. Furthermore, the stated U.S. reservations about Israel's actions in the territories also aids this PLO goal. If the PLO succeeds in portraying itself as having supposedly accepted the Israeli offer of elections in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and portraying Israel as running into obstacles, this will provide the proper assistance in warming up the summer, and in realizing 'Arafat's call last week for an accelerated armed struggle against Israel.

This is why Israel should speedily state the facts clearly and put things straight. The current question in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza is not elections, but an interim arrangement.

U.S. Decision on VOA Relay Station Praised

TA0906091389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] A U.S. Senate committee has approved a large appropriation—$190 million rather than the $50 million that had originally been allocated—for the construction of the VOA [Voice of America] relay station in the 'Arava. Our correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that this decision means that work on setting up the station will be accelerated. Communications Minister Gad Ya'aqobi praised the resolution, saying that it is very important for the development of the Negev and the 'Arava now, in a time of economic slowdown.

Paper Reports Shaykh Ahmad Yasin's Son Released

TA0806173889 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 7 Jun 89 p 3

[Text] Gaza—The authorities released 'Abd-al-Hamid Yasin—aged 16—after 20 days detention in Gaza's central prison.

It is worth noting that 'Abd-al-Hamid is the son of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin. He was detained with his father during the campaign of arrests against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the Gaza Strip.

Nabulus Youth Reported Killed in Clash With IDF

TA0806194389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 8 Jun 89

[Text] Ghalib Khalid Samiha, a 13-year-old Nabulus youth, was killed today in a clash with an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol. A group of youngsters in the town attacked an IDF patrol. A Nabulus hospital reported the youth's death. Our correspondent Arye Gus adds that the IDF is investigating the incident.

Strike in West Bank Marks 'Uprising' Anniversary

TA0906093089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] A general strike is in effect in Judaea and Samaria. It was initiated by the Unified National Command of the Uprising and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] to mark the beginning of the 19th month of the intifadah [uprising]. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that no outstanding events were recorded.

The general curfew imposed on the Gaza Strip earlier this week is still in effect.

A youth from the al-Shati' refugee camp was reported injured last night. Military sources, however, have reported that there was no IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation in the camp. A youth was wounded in the Shabura neighborhood of Rafah in a clash with IDF soldiers.

Pamphlets Against Defense Establishment Found
TA0806172589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Text] Pamphlets hostile to the defense establishment, General Mitzna', and Minister Rabin were disseminated in Hebron and Qiryat Arba' last night. They said the defense establishment is a leftist mafia that operates against Jews and not against the PLO.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the pamphlets are signed by an organization calling itself DOV, an acronym for repression of traitors. The Gush Emunim spokesman denied any link to the pamphlets or their contents. He said they were issued by a small group, and that the Gush Emunim is opposed to its views.

Druze Students Allowed To Study in Syria
TA0906140889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Ten Druze high school graduates will depart for Syria to pursue academic studies. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that this is the first time in 15 years that the Israeli authorities have permitted Druze students to leave for Syria to continue their studies. Most of the applicants have been turned down because they cannot produce full matriculation exam results.

Patriarch Demands 'Urgent Solution' to Violence
AU0806132489 Rome ANSA in English 1240 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Text] (ANSA) Bari, June 8—The Latin Rite Patriarch of Jerusalem, Monsignor Michel Sabah, said here Wednesday that the violence in the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories demanded an "urgent solution," based on the recognition of the rights and security needs of both Palestinians and Israelis.

"Peace is necessary for both sides," said Sabah, who is in Bari for meetings with economic and business leaders, adding "the continuation of the conflict constitutes mutual destruction."

Sabah went on to affirm that the violence in Palestine was an international problem and "all the states should feel responsible."

Sabah concluded his remarks to journalists by saying that the Palestinian uprising had also created an economic problem in the region.

"The entire economy is disrupted by the strikes and curfews, and many are becoming hungry. There is some help, but it is not enough to cover all their needs."

King Receives PLO Official, 'Arafat Message
JN0806155289 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to the PLO chairman, who conveyed a message to his majesty the king from His Excellency Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat within the framework of the existing coordination between Jordan and the PLO. The meeting was attended by the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court and the political adviser to his majesty the king.

King Husayn Receives Egypt's Hilmi Nimr 8 Jun
JN0806164589 Amman Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Text] His majesty the king received at the Hashemite Royal Court this afternoon Dr Muhammad Hilmi Nimr who conveyed to his majesty the good wishes of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

Dr Nimr is the candidate for the position of secretary-general of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC].

His majesty discussed with Dr Nimr ways of expediting the process of integration among the ACC member states, particularly in the economic field.

The meeting was attended by the chief of the Royal Court, the political adviser of his majesty, the Egyptian ambassador in Amman, and Ambassador 'Amr Musa, from the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.

Company To Produce Helicopters Locally
JN0606195989 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 6 Jun

[Text] The Jordan group of technology and an international aircraft manufacturer will sign an agreement in Paris in the next few days to set up a private company with a joint capital to produce the helicopter (TH-230) in Jordan. The four-seat helicopter can be used for military training purposes and for nonmilitary purposes such as air photography, agricultural spraying, and civil transport. The helicopter will be on display at the Paris Air Show, opening on Thursday [8 June].

Columnist Views U.S. Position on China, Israel
JN0906101189 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Jun 89 p 18

["Every Day" column by Tariq Masarwah: "Summer, Winter, and the Spirit of International Detente"]

[Text] If the Chinese Government's punishment of the Chinese students deserves Washington's anger, all this anger, then why should Israel's punishment of the Palestinian students and people be a different matter, deserving Washington's satisfaction and its unlimited financial, military, and political support for Israel?

The Chinese students are only asking their government for reforms. They neither oppose their state nor do they want to overthrow its sociopolitical system. Nevertheless, tenderhearted Washington imposes sanctions against China. On the other hand, the students of Palestine and their tens of thousands of dead, wounded, and detainees are rejecting occupation by a racist military force that occupies their land and names it "the land of Israel," demolishes their houses and builds Israeli settlements in their place, and expels millions of Palestinians and replaces them by millions of Jews from Russia, Romania, and Ethiopia. Nevertheless, Washington is imposing sanctions against the Palestinians and pumping its millions into Israel's oppressive machine and settlements.

How can Washington, morally and politically, put summer and winter under one roof?

The brilliant Arab politicians are telling us that the spirit of international detente necessitates "Arab moderation" and "Palestinian realism."

But why should this detente, to be considered as such, assume that the Arabs should make concessions and the Israelis should be hardliners? And why is it possible for this detente to take the form of interference in China's internal affairs—interference between the students and their government—while it is not possible for it to take the form of interference to prevent Palestinians from being killed and starved, their cities and villages turned into Nazi detention camps no different from those of Dachau and Auschwitz?

Washington has the right to give its own interpretation of the spirit of international detente; it is free to combine summer and winter under one roof. But why do the brilliant Arab politicians insist on convincing us of Washington's interpretations? Why do they insist on insulting our intelligence by saying that the two superpowers are hiding a pleasant surprise for us under the shadow of international detente and that what is required before we receive this surprise is further concessions, to the extent that we stand stark naked?

Paper Views U.S.-PLO Talks, Baker's Remarks
JN0806104289 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8-9 Jun 89 p 4

[Editorial: "No More of 'Familiarization' Please"]

[Text] Today's American-Palestinian meeting in Tunis, the third between the U.S. and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) after the unequivocal public declaration by the PLO of a new moderate peace strategy, comes at a time when serious questions have to be asked and answered. Paramount among them are:

Does the U.S. intend to direct its dialogue with the PLO into meaningful contacts aimed at advancing the peace process in light of the overwhelming support that the

Arab World extended to the PLO strategy at last month's Casablanca summit? Or would it continue the dialogue in a dialogue-for-dialogue-sake approach while pursuing ways and means to eventually cut out the PLO from the peace process?

Does the recent call by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on Israel to be "realistic" and recognise "Palestinian political rights" reflect a realistic change in the American stand? If so, what is the extent of that change?

Does the U.S. intend to base its moves on the basis that the Israeli plan for Palestinian elections in the occupied territories is an unbreakable package deal—a take-it-or-leave-it option? If (hopefully) not, how does Washington intend to act now to find common ground, having hastily pledged "wholehearted" support for the proposal to placate Jewish anger at Baker's call?

Does the U.S. intend to soften its opposition to active Soviet involvement in the peace process and accept ongoing positive Soviet signals over regional conflicts as genuine and worth pursuing?

Without firm, unambiguous answers for these questions, there is little hope that the peace wagon would move ahead. Any delay or stalling will only help extremist elements to continue their attempts to sabotage the path towards peace.

From the look of things, it seems almost certain that the U.S. will insist that a meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC) be convened to formalis · PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's repudiation of the PLO charter. If that indeed is the file that the Americans would carry under their arm to today's meeting, then it will not exactly be unfair on the part of the Palestinians to accuse the U.S. of devising another manoeuvre. Much more so, when seen in light of the fact that moves made by the PLO since 1974 are more than enough evidence of the Palestinians' recognition of the Israeli reality as a state in the region. Any American insistence that the PLO should go about the time-consuming task of convening a PNC session, with Israel not batting an eyelid in terms of positive response to PLO overtures, will only be interpreted as playing the Israeli game and stregthening dissident opposition to the mainstream PLO leadership's moderate approach.

Having said that, let us not overlook the fact that there is some logic in the American argument that a formal repudiation of the charter by a PNC session will boost the PLO strategy. But that logic will not hold as long as Israeli leaders hang on to their outright refusal to relinquish any part of the occupied Arab territories regardless of whether or not there is peace with the Arabs. Simply, the question will be: Why should the PLO jump when the U.S. says jump, when Israel is not even ready to sit up?

The stage is set today in Tunis for a new phase in American diplomacy for Middle East peace. Let us hope they will not turn it into another of those "familiarisation" sessions. The U.S. is much too familiar with the situation.

PSP Reportedly Recruits Syrian Druze Fighters

NC0806215389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Text] Citing well-informed sources at the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], BAYRUT NEWS AGENCY said that an agreement was concluded lately between Walid Junblatt and Syrian officials to bring Druze fighters from Syria—from Jabal al-Duruz, to be more specific—to participate in the fighting alongside PSP elements. The need for such assistance arose particularly after Palestinians scaled down their military presence on the combat lines and the mountain fronts. Approximately 150 Druze fighters have been recruited from al-Suwayda' and sent to 'Alayh, Sawfar, and Majdal Ba'na. The fighters, who brought along their families, are to receive monthly salaries ranging from 100 to 120 dollars in addition to housing accomodations.

Syria made it a condition for its approval of the scheme that the Druze fighters be among those who have completed their military service in the Syrian Army.

According to the same sources, a PSP delegation visited al-Suwayda' on 25 May to arrange for the transfer of Druze fighters to mountain areas in Lebanon. The move was welcomed in Jabal al-Duruz, for it provides for the settlement of Syrian Druze families in Lebanon. The issue was at the core of the discussions between Junblatt and Druze leaders in Bayt al-Din meetings.

2 Explosions in West Beirut Area Reported

NC0906073989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Two explosions occurred near the Liban ed d'Outremer Bank in the al-Rawshah area in West Beirut at 0950 today. According to initial reports, one person was killed and two others wounded. The blasts also caused grave material damage and left six cars burned.

More on Explosions

NC0906083589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] A booby-trapped BMW exploded near Al-Nasr Restaurant opposite the Liban ed d'Outremer Bank at approximately 1000 this morning. Several pedestrians were injured.

Eyewitnesses said that another explosion reverberated a few minutes after the explosion of the car. It transpired that the second explosion was caused by the burning of a gas cylinder placed in a taxi, which was parked near where the first explosion occurred. A fire which broke out in the area was extinguished by civil defense teams and fire fighters. [Paris AFP in English at 0826 GMT, with a Beirut dateline, reports: "Two booby-trapped cars blasted a popular seafront area in Moslem West Beirut Friday killing four people, police said."]

4 Killed, 4 Wounded

NC0906092489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Four Syrian shells fell on the coast of northern al-Matn at 1035 today. Between 0930 and 1015, a number of Syrian shells fell on the Jubayl coast.

In another development, security reports said four persons were killed and four wounded in an explosion in the al-Rawshah area. There are conflicting reports on the cause of the blast. It has been reported that an explosive charge went off in front of the Liban ed d'Outremer Bank at 0950, while other reports said three explosive devices had detonated in the area. Two of the three devices were placed in cars selling refreshments. Fires also broke out at the scene of the incident, burning a number of cars.

Further on Restoration of Ties With Egypt

NC0906095489 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0930 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Ambassador Salah Sutaytiyah, acting secretary-general of the Foreign Ministry, has stated that upon the instructions of Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, he has cabled Ambassador 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sulh, head of the Lebanese interests mission in Egypt, asking him to inform the Egyptian authorities concerned about the restoration of full diplomatic relations between Lebanon and Egypt. In his cable, Ambassador Sutaytiyah asked Ambassador al-Sulh to reach agreement with Egyptian Foreign Ministry on fixing a date and time for the simultaneous broadcasting of a statement in this regard in both Beirut and Cairo.

Army Returns Syrian Fire; Crossing Point Closed

NC0906061989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] While the Arab ministerial committee was holding talks with the Syrian officials in Damascus yesterday, the residential areas on the coast and center of northern al-Matn, in al-Ashrafiyah, and in the vicinity of the port of Beirut came under Syrian fire from the emplacements stationed in al-Mughithi, in a flagrant violation of the Arab decisions. The coasts of Kasrawan and Jubayl came under shelling until a late hour last night. The Lebanese Army had to respond to the sources of fire located at the al-Nahdah playing field, the Normandie area, the hotels area, Ra's al-Nab', and the military beach.

In another escalatory measure, the Al-Khatib-led brigades yesterday announced that the al-'Ijjah crossing point would be closed to vehicles in general as of this morning and declared the already issued permits as null and void. The Al-Khatib group cited the heavy traffic and the existence of numerous special permits as the reason for this measure.

'Resistance Fighters' Carry Out Attacks in South

NC0806171889 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Text] In the past 24 hours, resistance fighters have carried out a series of heroic attacks against the agents' positions and patrols in the occupied border strip, according to an agent militia source.

Resistance fighters also shelled the agents' position in Kafr Falus with artillery and rockets.

A resistance group attacked an agents' patrol in the Kafr Tibnit area, inflicting several casualties among the patrol members. The agents' media have admitted the attack but kept silent about the casualties, claiming that two resistence fighters were killed.

Security sources have reported that a land mine exploded under an agents' half track vehicle as it was raking the (al-Surayrah) area. The source noted that the crew of the vehicle suffered various wounds.

Israeli Military Movements in Western Al-Biqa'

NC0906081189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] According to reports from the south, security sources have interpreted the Israeli military movements now taking place in the occupied areas in Western al-Biqa' as a preparation to launch an aggression against the liberated areas there. Israeli armored movements were observed between Jisr al-Khardali and Qal'at Shaqif yesterday.

The Norwegian contingent attached to the United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon in Shab'a was placed on alert after an Israeli intelligence force entered the town and attempted to take over one of the houses there in order to turn it into a center for the so-called local committee. The Norwegian contingent's command yesterday told Mukhtar [village head] Muhammad Salim al-Zuhayri that it will forcibly resist any attempt of this sort.

Meanwhile, agent Lahd has carried out his threat to shell the power station in Markaba close to Sadd al-Qar'awn. His forces fired three shells at the station, causing damage to the high tension line and disrupting the power supply to the areas of Rashayya and Western al-Biqa'.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Responds to Bush, Bhutto Remarks

LD0806193189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Interview with President Najibullah by an unidentified BAKHTAR correspondent; date, place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The Republic of Afghanistan observes with pleasure the growing optimism toward the Afghan issue. Those who up until yesterday were pressing hard for a military solution to the Afghan issue and were rejecting any political solution today are moving closer—in principle, if not in action—to the Republic of Afghanistan's position.

We would have been even happier if, together with their confession that a political solution to the Afghan issue is the only solution, there had been any manifestation of realism and good intentions too: for example, if they had not discussed the removal of the legal government as a precondition for reaching a political solution, but instead had proposed a constructive and realistic position in connection with the form and mechanism of reaching a political solution.

Unfortunately, there are many contraditions in the assertions made by Miss Benazir Bhutto and Mr George Bush, which lead us to doubt these assertions.

Many times we have heard demagogical murmuring about a political solution to the Afghan issue. However, how can a political solution be implemented without the participation of the legal government of the Republic of Afghanistan, which is an independent state and is the sole representative of the Afghan people in the United Nations and other international organizations?

We think it is inappropriate for the United States and Pakistan to dictate their own prescription and [word indistinct] in connection with reaching a political solution on the Afghan people. The Republic of Afghanistan has emphasized clearly several times its position, which is based on current realities. The Republic of Afghanistan believes that ending the war, sitting around the negotiation table, and creating a broadly based coalition government to represent the interests of the Afghan people and to include all existing political forces, such as the Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the Afghan Government, is the only political solution. How can we talk about a political solution to the issues and not take into account the legal government of the Republic of Afghanistan?

On the other hand, we were suprised that the statements by Mr Bush and Miss Bhutto, as leaders of countries that signed the Geneva Accords, made no reference to the Geneva Accords and their unconditional observation.

In our view, the sincere observation of the Geneva Accords should be a basis for reaching a political solution. The details of a mechanism to reach a political solution can only be agreed to during negotiations. In the statements made by Mr George Bush and Miss Bhutto, there is talk of a political solution, while at the same time there is a continuing emphasis on supplying weapons and continuing the war. How can they justify such a contradiction? Continuing military assistance to those who overtly reject a political solution means they encourage a continuation of the war and bloodshed in the Republic of Afghanistan. We have said several times that if interference from abroad ends, and if Afghans are left on their own, they will find a common language. Of course, this does not mean that we would value less even for 1 moment the intentions, resources, and sincere efforts by others who could contribute to the process.

The U.S. President considers the achievement of the political solution to be directly related to the replacement of the legal government of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Can this be taken seriously for even a second? If the Republic of Afghanistan Government were replaced and not included in the process to achieve a political solution, then what is the political solution for and with whom? Mr George Bush wants the legal government of the Republic of Afghanistan to relinquish power and to hand it over to the opposition. That is not a serious political solution. We stress once again that, if they sincerely and really believe in a political solution, then this is the long-held position of the Republic of Afghanistan, which if they had accepted it some time ago would have saved thousands of innocent people.

More than ever before, we are serious in our position for a political solution as the only way to resolve the issue. But what type of political solution? This is up to the Afghans to decide. We hope that the United States and Pakistan will accept the harsh and obvious realities and put into practice with realism and logic their belief in a political solution.

Khalili on Combining Military, Political Solution

BK0806154289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1525 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Text] Islamabad, June 8 (AFP)—The Afghan problem could be resolved by combining military and political methods, but the use of force was needed to bring down the Soviet-backed government in Kabul, a mujahidin spokesman said Thursday.

Mas'ud Khalili, spokesman for the moderate fundamentalist Jamiyat-i Islami resistance faction said "we are in favour of a political solution, but military means (must) be combined with it."

He was reacting to reports from Washington that Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and U.S. President George Bush had agreed on the need for a political settlement leading to a broad-based democratic government in Afghanistan.

The "political solution must be clarified because any communist-oriented solution will not be a solution," he said, requesting further details on the two leaders' proposals.

The pro-resistance AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA) commenting on the reports said the Afghan people had chosen an interim government through nationwide representatives, and reiterated the demand by the seven Pakistan-based mujahidin groups that power in afghanistan be transfered to this government.

A 440-member Afghan shura or council organised by the seven groups elected the interim government on February 23, although it was boycotted by Shi'ite resistance groups based in Iran.

Ms. Bhutto ended a well-received two-day visit to Washington Wednesday after pledging repeatedly that her country would not build nuclear weapons and pressing U.S. leaders to back a political settlement in Afghanistan.

During her visit she had a private 50-minute meeting with Mr. Bush Tuesday.

Battle Situation 6 Jun in Nangarhar Province

LD0706181689 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Jun 89

[Text] The Republic of Afghanistan Armed Forces in Nangarhar Province yesterday continued their advance in two directions. They seized a large quantity of military equipment from the Pakistani-backed extremists. An Armed Forces source told the BAKHTAR information agency's military section that our heroic armed forces units and companies carried out mopping up and search operations in the eastern and north-eastern sections of Jalalabad city, as a result of which 26 enemy missile launchers, three boxes of DShK ammunition, one recoilless gun, box of hand grenades, and thousands of rounds of ammunition for Kalashnikovs were seized. The source adds that the advance of the Armed Forces in all directions in Nangarhar Province has frightened the enemy more than before, and morale has been sinking.

According to intelligence reports, in order to reequip the shattered joint enemy forces, Pakistan is using vehicles belonging to Military Corps No XI and is intensively supplying the enemy rear, in particular, with long-range weapons. Using these weapons, Pakistani and Pakistani-linked joint forces have launched attacks on Jalalabad city and regions around it. As a result of such attacks yesterday, six residents and two armed forces members were killed. Another 8 were wounded. The majority of those killed and wounded are women and children.

The spokesman adds that as a result of artillery and air strikes 107 enemies were killed and 110 were wounded. Among those killed are one ringleader, namely Dad Muhammad and a large number of Pakistani military men and Saudi Wahhabis. Some five BM-12 units, one BM-21 unit, three DShK's, two missile-launchers, two mortars, three guns, and one weapons and ammunition cache belonging to the enemy were destroyed.

According to another report, during combat operations in Khowst Major District, 14 enemies were killed and 28 were wounded. Two mortars, one rocket missile unit, 25 assorted weapons, and sic communication units belonging to them were destroyed. One Armed Forces member was killed and five were wounded.

A separate report states that Pakistani-linked extremists fired heavy weapons in regions of Herat Province, as a result of which four people were wounded. During a retaliatory action by the Armed Forces in that province, 17 enemy were killed and 66 were wounded. One rocket missile unit, two rocket launchers, 100 mortar rounds, and 5,000 assorted rounds belonging to them were destroyed.

Another report said that in retaliation for extremist attacks in regions of Qandahar Province, the Armed Forces engaged in artillery and air strikes, as a result of which seven enemies were killed. 'Abdul Razaq and Lal Muhammad, two extremist ringleaders, were among those killed.

In other provinces and regions as a whole, the situation is calm, and state and private traffic is flowing normally on major highways.

'Extremists' Killed in Internal Feuding

LD0706205389 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 7 Jun 89

[Text] Kabul, June 6, BAKHTAR—Twenty two extremists were killed and 12 others injured as a result of the clashes occurred among the members of the Khalis, Gulbuddin and Sayyaf extremist groups in the Shiveh, Robat and Deh Bala Districts, Nangarhar Province recently.

In a similar clash which took place among the Gulbuddin and Rabbani groupings in the Pashtun Zarghun District, Herat Province 16 extremists were killed.

Likewise, clashes occurred among the rival extremist groups in the outskirts of Balkh Province, 8 extremists were killed and 7 others injured.

Clashes which started over the distribution of public and private properties looted and internal feuds between the extremist rival groups still continue.

Protest Notes 560-563 Submitted to UNGOMAP

LD0706222189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 7 Jun 89

[Text] Kabul, June 6, BAKHTAR—Notes number 560 to 563 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan on 22 instances of flagrant violations by Pakistan of the provisions of the Geneva Accords were submitted to the Office of the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) here on Monday.

The notes ask UNGOMAP that as per Para 7, Document Number 4 of the Geneva accords assess the said Pakistani violations and convey results to the concerned sides immediately.

It must be added here that since the enforcement of the Geneva Accords the Pakistani military circles have violated it 4354 times.

These violations were so far reflected through 562 notes of the Afghan Foreign Ministry to the mission.

India

Embassy in China Arranges To Evacuate Nationals

BK0806164189 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Text] The Indian Embassy in China is making arrangements to repatriate Indians from Beijing. They include 12 students, a teacher with his two family members, a team of writers, and 13 other Indians. Stating this, an official spokesman said in New Delhi today that all the Indians are safe.

Asked about the evacuation of family members of the diplomatic staff in Beijing, he said no decision to this effect has been taken yet.

100 Nationals Evacuated

BK0906074889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] About a hundred Indians reached Bombay from Beijing today by a British Airways flight. They include family members of the embassy staff, five writers, and 12 students.

Daily Comments on Sri Lanka-LTTE Collusion

BK0806152989 Madras DINAMALAR in Tamil 3 Jun 89 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, 3 June—It has been firmly understood that the Indian Peacekeeping Force [IPKF] in Sri Lanka will not be totally withdrawn right now.

Sri Lankan President Premadasa announced in Colombo the day before yesterday [1 June] that the IPKF should be withdrawn by the 29th of next month. He has also stated that he would put forward this request to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi soon.

Premadasa's statement, which was issued quite unexpectedly, has sent shock waves into official and political circles. His statement requesting the withdrawal of the IPKF within a specified period is in contrast with Rajiv Gandhi's recent announcement on the plan of India, which has already withdrawn 12,000 soldiers, to accomplish the complete withdrawal of troops in a phased manner. Premadasa's statement has puzzled the diplomatic missions of various countries stationed in Colombo and Delhi. It has been reliably learned that although the Government of India has not yet given its impressions about Premadasa's deadline, it feels that the question of total troop withdrawal does not arise at all. This is because New Delhi has received some shocking reports from the Indian intelligence bureau about the background of Premadasa's announcement.

Our intelligence bureau reports that Premadasa has issued such an unexpected statement on the basis of an accord reached at the secret talks held between the representatives of the Sri Lankan Government and the Balasingham-led LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] delegation.

In his election campaign, Premadasa declared that if he became president, he would oust the IPKF as early as possible. Therefore, he won the elections with the support of the Sinhalese. The Sinhalese extremist organization, Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna [JVP—People's Liberation Front] is also fighting with its demand for the withdrawal of the IPKF. The JVP is indulging in violent activities in the southern parts of Sri Lanka to pressure the government to accept its demand.

On the other side, the Liberation Tigers, who are handicapped by the operations of our soldiers and who are hiding in the jungles, have been calling for the withdrawal of the Indian troops.

Therefore, the Sri Lankan Government and the LTTE, who hold common stands on this issue only, could easily come to an agreement. There is no report that they discussed anything else other than the ousting of Indian troops. Reports indicate that important issues like the rights, privileges, employment opportunities, education, and protection to life and property of the Sri Lankan Tamils did not take place during the secret talks.

It is understood that an accord has also been reached concerning what is to be be done after the withdrawal of the Indian troops:

1. To dismiss the democratically-elected Varadaraja Perumal [of EPRLF—Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] government in the Tamil province [Northeastern Province] and dissolve the assembly.

2. To abandon the merger of the Northern and Eastern Provinces, which is an important provision of the Indo-Sri Lankan accord.

3. To hand over the Northern Province encompassing Jaffna to the LTTE led by Prabhakaran and to make Prabhakaran the chief minister there without holding any election or by holding an election at gunpoint.

4. To entrust the task of dealing with other Tamil militant organizations in the Northern Province such as the EPRLF, TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization], and ENDLF [Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front] with the LTTE; the Sri Lankan Government will make all necessary arrangements.

5. To bring the Eastern Province under the control of the Sri Lankan Army and form a Sinhalese-dominated government there through elections after suppressing the predominant organization EPRLF, and to give representation to the Tamil-speaking Muslims in the new government.

Our intelligence bureau has received information that the above five points have been accepted by the two parties.

Besides this, a scheme [of the Sri Lankan Government] hitherto unknown to the LTTE has also come to light. That is, to consolidate the position of the Army in the east and then take the LTTE to task in the north, which will be left isolated from other militant organizations.

India believes that if such a situation arises in Sri Lanka, it will bring back the strife-torn situation which existed in 1983. Riots, exodus of refugees, dumping of arms, and intervention of other countries will again occur. There are reports from other quarters that at present some superpowers, which are worried about India's conspicuous military might with the successful test-firing of the Agni missile, are eager to vitiate the situation in Sri Lanka and wish to teach India a lesson. If the Eastern Province again comes under the control of the Sinhalese-dominated government, there will not be any difficulty in making the Trincomalee port available to the United States. Military experts feel that this may affect the security of India, especially in Tamil Nadu, in an unprecedented manner.

In brief, India feels that if the IPKF is totally withdrawn from Sri Lanka, the Tamils will be badly affected and there will be no protection to their life and property. One of the provisions of the Indo-Sri Lankan accord for totally disarming the Tamil militant groups has not yet been accomplished. The LTTE has plenty of arms. The Sri Lankan Government, which has invited the LTTE for secret talks, has not made any proposals or laid any conditions about the surrender of arms. A senior official of the Government of India pointed out that because of this [not urging the LTTE to surrender its arms] and since the Tamils have not been granted full protection, the IPKF can very well continue to stay in Sri Lanka as per the July 1987 [Indo-Sri Lankan] accord. The Sri Lankan Government does not have a unilateral right to ask the IPKF to quit until all the provisions of the accord are implemented. The official remembered the ploy used by the LTTE in the past; launching attacks while holding talks with the Indian Government. The senior official further said that even today the policy of the LTTE is the same. The real objective of the LTTE is drawn from the selfish intentions of its leader to totally disown the Tamils of the Eastern Province and to control only Jaffna. Unfortunately, the Sri Lankan Government and several leaders of political parties in our country as well have not understood this. However, the Sri Lankan Tamils are very well aware of this fact. They will not give their consent to the withdrawal of our selfless peacekeeping force.

Gandhi Offers Sri Lanka Aid in Combating Floods

BK0506125189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 5 Jun 89

[Text] India has offered all assistance to Sri Lanka to meet the situation caused by floods and landslides in the country in the last few days. About 200 persons have died and over 100,000 rendered homeless in the devastating floods. The prime minister, Mr Gandhi, today sent a message to President Premadasa offering all assistance for the marooned people.

A spokesperson for the Indian High Commission in Colombo said Mr Gandhi has also conveyed the condolences of the people of India to the bereaved families in Sri Lanka.

Australian Foreign Minister Meets Gandhi, Rao

BK0806160489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Text] The Australian minister for foreign affairs and trade, Mr Gareth Evans, held wide-ranging talks with the Indian leaders in New Delhi today.

Briefing newsmen, an official spokesman said both the countries have agreed to hold official-level talks on disarmament in January next. He said India has decided to take part in the chemical weapons conference to be held in Canberra in December.

During a meeting, which Mr Evans had with the external affairs minister, Mr P.V Narasimha Rao, the current international situation and regional issues were discussed.

At another meeting with the commerce minister, Mr Dinesh Singh, the two sides expressed their keenness to promote joint ventures.

The Australian minister later called on the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

Medical Technology Agreement Signed With USSR
BK2505053589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 May 89

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have signed an agreement for the transfer of technology in drugs and pharmaceuticals. Under the agreement, India will get the know-how to manufacture rifampin. This vital anti-TB [antituberculosis] and antileprosy drug is presently being imported. India is to offer technical know-how to the Soviets for manufacturing penicillin.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Comments on Khamene'i Position
LD0906101989 Tehran IRNA in English 1010 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 9, IRNA—The people should not have the slightest doubt that Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i was selected as leader of the Islamic Republic based on the best logical and Islamic principles, Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said Friday.

"We pray to God that he would give us the chance to obey his orders and to give him (Khamene'i) the opportunity to take up this heavy responsibility and lead (the country) in a way revolutionary Islam deserves," he said. Hashemi-Rafsanjani was delivering a sermon in the first Friday prayer after the passing away of Imam Khomeyni.

He said the imam did not want to choose his successor himself in a direct way but had hinted that he believed that Khamene'i was worthy of becoming leader. He also read a letter from the imam to the Constitutional Review Council stating his objection to the need for a person to be a marja', or supreme religious leader, in order to qualify for leadership.

"From the start," Hashemi-Rafsanjani quoted from the letter, "I believed and insisted that it was not necessary to be a marja' to qualify (for leadership). A just mojtahed (qualified jurisprudent) who is confirmed by the honorable experts from throughout the country would be sufficient."

The letter, dated April 29, was in response to another by the head of the council, Ayatollah Meshkini who had asked for the imam's view on the how the Constitution should be reformed. The 49-year-old Ayatollah Khamene'i, a mojtahed, was selected by four-fifths of the 80-member assembly on Sunday, a day after the imam's death.

Further on Hashemi-Rafsanjani News Conference
LD0806165889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Text] Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Majlis and acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces, replied to various questions at a news conference this morning attended by more than 200 foreign reporters, 80 agencies, and international media networks, and also local reporters.

According to the Central News Unit correspondents the press conference was held in an area of the Majlis were flowers wreathed the picture of the great and illustrious leader of the Islamic revolution of Iran. The Majlis speaker welcomed the reporters and then replied to a question from the REUTER correspondent: The reappraisal of the cases being attended to in the Constitution is continuing just as before. On the basis of the reappraisal already made, the president will become the head of the executive branch, and the post of the prime minister will either be eliminated or remain in the form of deputy president and in charge of the cabinet.

In response to a question asked by the correspondent of Dubayy's AL-BAYAN about the prospects for relations between Iran and the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is based on the expansion of relations and good-neighborliness with Arab countries, particularly the countries of the Persian Gulf. Recently, we have received some positive signs from them, except Saudi Arabia.

The reporter of JEUNE AFRIQUE asked about the U.S. President's statement to the effect that if Iran helps in the release of U.S. hostages in Lebanon there is the possibility of improvement of relations with Iran. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: If the United States uses its influence on the Phalangists in Lebanon and takes action in connection with the release of the Islamic Republic's hostages in Lebanon, then we too will make efforts toward this end.

In reply to a question from ROHANI-YE MILLYET, published in Turkey, he said: The Islamic Republic of Iran will never interfere in the internal affairs and policies of other countries, particularly neighboring countries. Of course, our support for Islam is a global issue and not limited to any particular country. The Government of Turkey should not minimize the problems of its own country's Muslims by blaming other countries. We have even talked with the Government of Bulgaria about the problems of the Turkish Muslims living in Bulgaria, and they have declared that they will respect the rights of the Muslims of Bulgaria.

The TASS correspondent asked for the Majlis speaker's views on the future of current economic and political relations between Iran and the USSR. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: When there was talk of my trip to the Soviet

Union, I was received by the imam—may God's blessings be upon him—who instructed: Try to expand your relations with our big neighbor. Now the preliminary preparations for a big economic, cultural and commercial agreement have been made. My trip too will take place at the scheduled time.

The correspondent of Japan's MAINICHI asked for the Majlis speaker's opinion on the date of the presidential elections and the date of his trip to the Soviet Union. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The date of the presidential elections will not change and we hope that the elections will take place as scheduled. My trip to the Soviet Union will also take place at the set time; its exact date has not been announced.

The acting commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, in reply to the reporter from the SEDAQAT news agency of India, said: At the top of the list of all our programs are the economic and welfare issues of the people, and the country's economic prosperity [rawnaq-e eqtesadi] is among the most important programs which will be carried within the framework of the 5-year plan.

The correspondent from Britain's ITN Network also asked a question about the Salman Rushdie issue and the improvement of Britain's relations with Iran. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani replied: The Majlis has left the door to reconciliation with Britain open in an approved bill [mosavvabeh] and if, according to this approved bill, Britain corrects its position and accepts Iran's conditions, she can be hopeful of an improvement in relations with Iran.

The BBC correspondent asked a question about the release of hostages in Lebanon through bilateral efforts. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed to the influence of England and the United States in Lebanon and replied: If England takes a positive step toward the release of the Iranian hostages, we will then do our best.

The ABC correspondent from the United States asked Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani what steps the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken to improve its economic situation. The Majlis speaker replied: The country's economic plans are announced in Majlis, the press, and the mass media. Anyone can carefully study our plans.

The correspondent from England's INDEPENDENT asked a question on the policy of neither East nor West, and on the improvement of relations with the USSR, which backed Iraq during the war. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized that we can, on the basis of cordial coexistence, establish extensive economic and commercial ties with Eastern and Western countries. This does not in any way contradict the policy of neither East nor West. Although the USSR has a bad reputation because of its support for Iraq and in its aggression on Afghanistan, Mr Gorbachev's leadership has brought about a positive transformation in the USSR's policies toward improving its relations, whereas such a transformation has not occured in the West.

The correspondent from Japan's NHK asked a question in connection with the receipt of loans and credit from the Western countries and Japan. The Majlis speaker replied that according to laws passed by the Majlis and our reconstruction policies, we do not seek direct loans, and we do not need them. However, we will welcome the cooperation of friendly countries in implementing major projects.

In reply to the French correspondent on the future of Franco-Iran relations, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: We do not envisage a bright horizon for the near future. There are powerful centers in France who prevent the improvement of relations.

In reply to a question posed by a correspondent from America's UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL in connection with unresolved issues such as the war, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed to the popular support in the country, and said: The future prospects for the country within the next 10 years are very bright. The next 10 years have been termed the reconstruction decade. We have a lot of resources and capabilities for developing the country's economy. We rank second in the world in terms of gas resources; we have fixed oil resources for the next 100 years. In the near future we will be producing several million tons of steel per year which will meet the country's needs. The scope of our resources together with our agricultural produce can help us to reach self-sufficiency. Even if the war does not come to a complete end, we intend to end it, and we will not give any concessions to Iraq who is well aware that it can not return to war.

A WALL STREET JOURNAL correspondent predicted that Hashemi-Rafsanjani will be elected as the future president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and said: Khamene'i will be the leader and you will be the future president of the Islamic Republic. Which of you will be occupying the more superior position? In addition, the correspondent asked: How do you view the future of relations with the West?

The Majlis speaker said: When I hear the judgment of the Westerners about our country, it seems as though they are making judgments about the planet of Saturn. These judgments are very rash. Furthermore they reveal the West's ignorance of our country. The role of Ayatollah Khamene'i is the leadership of the Islamic Republic, and he will be holding the prime role in our country [as heard]. At present, I am responsible for the parliament, and should I be elected as the president, I would assume the role of Presidency. In connection with relations with the West, apart from certain Western countries who bear a grudge against the Islamic Republic of Iran, we are

prepared to establish relations with the rest of them [as heard], but on equal terms, and provided that we see no intention of domination by the other side.

IL GIORNALE's correspondent from Italy asked: Cooperation betwen Iran and the West has encountered some obstacles due to events such as Rushdie's book. Is it possible that in future a mode of understanding may be found? Hashemi-Rafsanjani replied: It was the West which created that issue—they themselves published that book which had been termed as dangerous before. In connection with the imam's decree, the Westerners wre deceitful. That decree was an Islamic one which needed to be issued. Now the West can solve that issue and confront the person who has hurt the Muslims' feelings, and who thereby created the danger of disruption in relations between the Western countries and the Muslims. They should put the author of that book on trial. The West can do that.

A Danish weekly's correspondent asked a question about governmental supervision of foreign trade, its increase or reduction, as well as a question about the possibility of the abrogation of the decree on killing Salman Rushdie.

The Majlis speaker said: Government supervision over trade always exists, but recently more freedom has been granted in that regard, and in future these freedoms will increase. But in connection with the decree issued on Salman Rushdie, no one will express an opinion contrary to that of the Imam.

An ARABIC KAYHAN correspondent posed a question about Western claims of a change in the country's foreign policy and strategy, asking for Hashemi-Rafsanjani's opinion. The acting commander in chief said: Our strategies, in particular the revolution's objectives, remains the same. Even regarding negotiations with Iraq—we seek the precise implementation of Security Council Resolution 598. We accept both countries' rights in the Arvand River, but in any case the basis for resolving border disputes with Iraq is the 1975 Algiers Accord, which Iraq must accept.

Ayatollah Khamene'i's Message to People

LD0806145989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Jun 89

["Text" of message from Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful, we seek help from him; the honorable and dear nation of Iran, the proud and heroic ummah, oh people who are aware and untiring, compatriots, and Muslim brothers and sisters:

In their extraordinary session the experts representing the people, soon after the announcement of the heartbreaking loss of the great leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency Imam Khomeyni—may his being be close to God—elected me as leader of the Iranian regime. It is a grave responsibility, a heavy trusteeship, and a great test which can only be shouldered with God's support and attention, and the prayers of the guardian of the time [hidden imam]—may our souls be sacrificed to him—as well as your support—you who are the original masters [saheb] of the revolution and the country. That is the only way possible to arrive at our destination and emerge proud.

Now that the dear late leader of ours, His Excellency Imam Khomeyni—may his dust be sacred—has passed away, all of us have valued the treasure of the example of his leadership—leadership of history's great man and the exceptional face of this contemporary period. Imam Khomeyni was so great that there is hardly anyone among the great personalities and leaders of the world and history—prophets and immaculate ones excepted—with such dimensions and characteristics. That great man combined the power of faith with competent action; he combined steel will with high spirits; moral courage with considered caution; frankness of speech with serenity and sincerity; spirituality with intelligence; virtue with decisiveness and speed; greatness and serenity of leadership with compassionate and mercy. In short, he possessed many unique and fine characteristics—characteristics which may seldom be found in a great human being over centuries. He had all of these characteristics all. By right, the personality of that unique beloved one was beyond our reach and his unique lofty and humane position is beyond our imagination. His position was mythical [assatirguneh]. He was the leader, father, teacher, point of devotion and popular personality of the Iranian nation; he was the bright hope of all the world's meek and especially Muslims. He was God's sound slave and his humble slave. He used to plead with God weeping in the darkness of the night. He was the great spirit of our time. He was the full example of a Muslim. He was the obvious epitome of a Muslim leader. He gave greatness to Islam and hoisted the flag of the Koran in the world. He liberated Iran from the bondage of foreigners. He gave them pride, personality, and faith in themselves. He raised the cry of independence and freedom all over the world. He revived hope in the hearts of the oppressed nations of the world. At a time when all the powerful political hands were at work to isolate religion and spirituality and moral values, he founded a regime on the basis of religion, spirituality, and moral values. He founded a government and a policy bassed on Islam. He powerfully administered, led, and preserved Islamic Iran for 10 years amid fearful turbulance and fateful events. He thus brought the Islamic Republic to a safe point.

Ten years of his leadership is an unforgettable testimony and a valuable heritage for our people and officials. The leadership of the Islamic Republic system now faces this valuable and never-ending trusteeship, and this supreme and unattainable image of the personality of our great leader.

Neither I, as an insignificant religious seminary student [talabeh] with all my faults and shortcomings, nor anybody else in the Islamic Republic can reach the apex of that distinguished and exceptional personality and compare himself with the father and the architect of the Islamic revolution and the builder and organizer of the Islamic Republic. He was unique; there was no one similar to him. The distance between him and people like me is indeed a profound one which is impossible to traverse. However, at present, this great and exceptional opportunity has risen before people like me and we should benefit from such a valuable heritage, like a divine and spiritual inspiration.

I consider myself to be the humble student and an obedient child of that spirit of God [Ruhollah, which was also Khomeyni's first name]. I have had the good fortune to quench my thirst from that stream of knowledge and feel with all my being every moment of the process of that blessed divine guidance, during the whole period of 10 years and a few months since the arrival of the great leader in Iran till the ascendance of that divine spirit. His words, thoughts, exhortations, orders, recommendations, and finally his behaviour and deeds were all various gifts which emanated generously from that beneficial apex, constantly benefiting some of his diciples waiting in the foothills.

His lessons were not confined to what we learned from him in religious seminaries, or to what we learned from him during the 16 years of struggle. His greatest and most memorable lessons were those that we listened to with utmost attention during the last 10 years and inscribed them on our minds like testaments of wisdom. With the assistance and the will of God, no event or occurance will be able to separate from us what is now a part of our existence. I am, in the capacity of my new responsibility, committed and obliged to utilize those divine lessons precisely.

Now that this sensitive obligation and the heavy weight of this divine trusteeship has been delivered to me by the experts and the representatives of the nation, I consider it necessary during these sensitive and unforgettable days to draw the attention of the dear nation and the country's officials to certain points.

One: The wounded enemies of the revolution have waited in ambush for many years, waiting for days like these, and now like owls waiting for the setting of the sun, they intend to begin their sinister and filthy provocations. Although the storm risen from the sacred emotions of the nation, which has created a tumult in the country's atmosphere like a volcano, will not give any opportunity to the internal ill-wishers and chaos-mongers and the grudge-bearing external enemies to carry out any atrocities. We will set fire to any move which is directed against the sacred system of the Islamic Republic, which is the most valuable inheritance of our great and deceased leader. Nevertheless it is a public duty today to maintain our readiness, vigilance, and presence, and to remain sensitive in the face of suspicious provocations.

Since the victory of the Islamic revolution, global arrogance has never abandoned its intention to weaken and even destroy the Islamic Republic. We have witnessed that it has not refrained from any possible or effective measure. As long as the nation and the responsible authorities of the Islamic Republic remain committed to their independence, national honor, and Islamic principles, global arrogance will retain this motive. However, it can do nothing, thanks to divine succor and assistance and in accordance with the rules governing creation and history; it cannot do anything in the face of the nation's resolve, determination, and desire for freedom. Its tricks and conspiracies have not achieved anything, and the will of God shall always remain the same, God willing.

I, therefore, call upon every member of the nation and various strata to consider their revolutionary duty to remain vigilant, maintain their vigilance and be aware of the enemies' conspiracies. I want them to discover the sinister intentions of the enemies through their political stances, their international propaganda, rumormongering, and the creation of economic bottlenecks. The nation should realize that if they remain alert and ready, all the enemy conspiracies will be foiled and victory will come to the nation of Iran.

Two: As our great and beloved leader had often repeated, and as he emphasized in his divine political will, the unity of word and the unity of the nation's ranks—which were the key to the victory of the revolution—are indeed the key to the stability, health, and survival of the revolution. The division of the nation into opposing groups and ranks, overestimation of insignificant points of difference, irrational emotions, forgetting the important principles that are shared by the nation—or at least by a great majority—and forgetting the enemy and its consequent acute dangers: all these are the greatest tragedy for a nation seeking to regain its lost rights and to rid itself of dependence on foreigners.

In view of the fact that we have a long way before us to a shining future for our country and nation, and considering the staunch enemies who seek to prevent us—at any price—from traversing that path and reaching that future, we must—as wisdom, religion, and past experience dictate—consolidate and unify our ranks, and refrain from disputes.

The duality of theories, and even viewpoints, must not, under any circumstances, lead to squabbles and conflict, especially as shared principles are creating a profound bond among the nation. During this sensitive phase, in which the foreign powers have for long been promising themselves that they will witness deep divisions in our nation, the dear compatriot sisters and brothers must maintain unity and solidarity more than ever, thereby disappointing the enemies of Islam and Iran, as in the past.

It is appropriate that the esteemed clergy, the esteemed Friday prayer leaders, the religious preachers, seminary students and university students, the dear Majlis deputies, the intellectuals, authors, and artists should all illuminate this supreme truth for everyone with thousands of tongues, and guide toward it.

Three: Since the beginning of the victory of the revolution, one of the conspiracies of the enemies—which used to be put in to action by treacherous elements inside the country—was attempting to grind the affairs of the country to a standstil, to halt production, creativity, and scientific innovation. Fortunately, thanks to repeated warnings by his eminance the imam—may his dust be sacred—as well as the awareness of the people, this conspiracy, which was against the objectives of the revolution and which was detrimental to the welfare of the people, was neutralized.

At this sensitive time, when more than at any other time the enemies are thinking of sabotage in the Iranian regime, this conspiracy must be neutralized through the general awareness of the nation.

Today, whatever the wish of the enemy, the wheels of the Iranian regime must move more smoothly than ever before. The domestic production trend, whether agricultural or industrial, must attain momentum. Government and administrative establishments and revolutionary organs as well as religious seminaries and universities and research institutions, educational and cultural centers, must move toward self-sufficiency; the Army and the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps [IRGC] and other production centers must continue their work. Other centers of production, centers of trade and professions, and other government and nongovernment sectors, which have any sort of role in the administration of the country and in providing society's needs now and in future, must continue their work with a loftier will and higher motivation than before.

I sincerely request all those who have a small or major role in the administration of current affairs in the country, I request the workers and technical cadres, farmers and rural people, governmental managers and employees, the highly-learned 'ulema and honorable clerics, educators and university people, tradesmen and professionals, writers and speakers and artists, the Armed Forces and the security and military forces, the authorities of the revolutionary institutions and all others, to take notice of the fact that today the efforts by the enemies against Iran are doubly great and so these people must also double their efforts and work. I request them to disappoint the enemies and thus dishearten the enemies from working against the Islamic Republic.

Meanwhile, I deem it my duty to sincerely thank all the self-sacrificing brothers in the medical team and physicians attending his excellency the imam—may his dust be sacred—those who attended him continuously over past years and those who attended him during the recent operation, attending him day and night and without any rest or regard for their own personal needs. I also sincerely thank their aides and helpers.

Four: The Armed Forces and the officers of the Islamic Republic of Iran—more than any other group—must attach importance to their alertness and to their manpower and equipment capabilities. Although the experience of the last 10 years has shown all our enemies that aggression on our revolutionary country and nation causes the aggressor's shame and disappointment, and in view of the fact that numerous delays in the implementation of UN Resolution 598 have been posed by the other party, while emphasizing that we firmly support the establishment of lasting peace in the region, it is essential that the Armed Forces should fully maintain their alertness and capability.

The Army and the IRGC are the two powerful arms of the system. Their abilities, talents and might must increase everyday, through cooperation between them. The mobilization of the oppressed, which has always been cause for pride, must be strengthened.

Five: The esteemed Friday prayer leaders and his excellency the imam's political and financial representatives in centers of provinces and in centers abroad, and in government organs, revolutionary institutions, in the Army of the Islamic Republic, the IRGC, the Islamic revolution committees, the gendarmerie, the police, the Red Crescent, the Endowment Office, the Secretariat of Friday prayer leaders, the press, and the clergy representatives at universities, must all maintain their responsibilities, and they must carry on fulfilling their prescribed duties with the utmost precision and effort.

I ask all the esteemed Friday prayer leaders, whether those appointed by his excellency the imam—may his blessed shadow extend—or those appointed by the Central Secretariat of the Friday prayer leaders, that during these sensitive times, they should express condolences to our dear nation—who have lost their kind father—and thank them for such great expressions of sincerity and loyalty. They should invite everyone to be present and safeguard the achievements of the revolution. The people should all be invited to maintain the unity of word, and be guided to piety and trust in God.

Six: I offer my sincere condolences, particularly to the children of martyrs, the esteemed families of martyrs, and POW's, those missing-in-action, to the brave men who are still suffering in captivity and to the dear disabled of the war, who were especially adored by our great leader. I beseech the compassionate and almighty God to give them patience for the loss of their kind, benevolent, and illustrious father. I also wholeheartedly offer my condolences to the entire nation, this great, courageous and loyal people, who frankly through their demonstration of enthusiastic allegiance during the past few days brought honor to the revolution and Islam and delighted the lofty soul of our leader. I tell them that you

great nation, with so much sincerity, loyalty, and self-sacrifice, truly deserve to receive divine mercy and may God bestow his permanent favor upon you. May you witness final victory and realize the lofty aspirations of our dear, deceased, and great leader.

Seven: I consider it my duty to express my deep respect and appreciation to the esteemed and noble family of our great deceased leader, particularly to his dear beloved son, His Excellency Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni. Everyone who has loved our imam and has felt indebted to him, should realize that the dear imam owed his health and happiness for many years to the selfless efforts and endeavors of his honorable son. Had it not been for his excellency's sympathetic and vigilant hard work and his managerial capabilities in taking the initiative to manage his holiness the imam's working and living environment, we might have been deprived of the gift of the existence of our great leader many years earlier. I, while offering my deepest gratitude and appreciation to his excellency and while offering my condolences once again for this profound grief and this heartrending loss, beseech almighty God to grand his excellency ever-increasing success. I particularly ask the esteemed government and the lofty Islamic Majlis, each of which are somehow involved in the country's 5-year reconstruction plan, to bear this issue in mind and to give it their worthy consideration. [not further specified]

In conclusion, I would like to lay stress on the point that sincerity, loyalty, enthusiasm, and faith demonstrated by you the dear nation in this great divine test, shall remain one of the most glorious memories of your greatness and that of your illustrious leader. It is very appropriate to say that an imam like that deserved a nation like this. One must be certain and sure that you will receive divine approval and no doubt the final victory, which is a divine reward of gratitude to the steadfast and committed believers, will come to you. God grants success!

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i

[Dated] 8 June 1989

Khamene'i Addresses Military Officials

NC0906065089 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] The representative of the leadership and head of the Armed Forces ideological-political organization, the minister of defense, commanders of the three forces, and select personnel of the three forces and the Ministry of Defense, accompanied by a number of officials and ideological-political clergymen of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, met with Ayatollah Khamene'i yesterday afternoon to renew their allegiance to the leadership.

During this meeting, Defense Minister Brigadier General Jalali expressed condolences and said: The Armed Forces always enjoyed the unsparing support of its old and wise father in the most difficult conditions of the revolution and of the imposed war, and we are proud that two major points in the imam's will—that is, efforts to achieve self-sufficiency and nonintervention in political affairs—were the policy guiding the Armed Forces in its affairs.

He added: Aware of your efforts on the scenes of war and in the fields of management in the most difficult conditions, the Armed Forces are confident that they will continue with firmness to preserve Islam and the Islamic homeland against internal and external enemies under your command and to carry out their great duty with the help of God almighty.

The defense minister also said: We in the Armed Forces pledge allegiance to you with all our being and, as in the past, we are at your command before all plots by our enemies and will carry out our holy duty as soldiers.

Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, then expressed gratitude for the sentiments expressed by those present and said: Truly, it is only befitting for the most worthy human beings and the purest hearts to be filled with a sense of honor for a great human being and for a rare personality such as Imam Khomeyni. The leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran also added: There is a difference between that person who is honored and praised because of his rank and that person whose personality, grandeur, and humility compel a person, no matter how great he is, to bow down and offer respect. Our dear imam was such a person. Each of the imam's virtues was enough to make a great person from one individual. He was extremely wise, alert, and clever and someone you could not mislead. He had an iron will and could overcome any obstacle. At the same time, he was extremely compassionate and merciful, both when praying to God and when dealing with various points in the life of human beings. He was also self-restrained and pious. In other words, he had no carnal desires, and there are not many human beings who are free from carnal desires. He was the master of his desires. At the same time, he was extremely humble and patient. The most difficult incident did not create any waves in the ocean of his existence. On many occasions we, the officials of the Islamic Republic, sought refuge in him at sensitive moments and at a time when both the East and the West had put pressure on us—and you, the Armed Forces, are well aware of what difficult conditions we went through in the 8 years of war—we went to him at these difficult moments and just a look at his face calmed us. His face was a spark of light in the history of Iran, but that light has been extinguished.

The leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran also said: Since 1337 [1958] when I was his student until now, I saw him in various crises. The imam was not like the people of our era. He was an extremely loving and humble person. Now that the sun of his existence has set, even our enemies have been unable to deny his greatness. If you look at the foreign news, you can see this reality clearly.

The leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran added: I consider the first decade of the revolution an exceptional period because of the presence of the imam. He was an extremely great blessing, and it is a pity that he has left us.

Some of the leaders of famous Islamic movements came here today to express condolences. I wish that their words had been recorded so the people could see how the waves from that ebullient source and center of energy granted life and strength to Muslims and the oppressed of the world so that they could resist the flood of aggression. All these oppressed faces from Lebanon, Palestine, Afghanistan, and other parts of the world told us that we have truly become orphans.

Ayatollah Khamene'i added: We are facing a great calamity and a great vaccuum has been created. But there are a few points which we should consider. Every person, in addition to his external appearance, has other aspects too, some of which are character building. These are the person's thoughts, world outlook, and views. Someone who believes in God, in resurrection, in martyrdom, and in trust in God acts in one way, while someone who does not believe in these acts differently. Another one of these aspects is a person's objectives. Great objectives automatically create great movements and great personalities. A person's views on human society and humanity are the elements that build personality. He is not physically present but his thoughts, objectives, and wishes are still here and in our hands. The ideals stated by the imam are the loftiest of ideals. The followers of the imam are pursuing the ideals and thoughts of the imam and will continue this path. An officer who renounces all pleasure and spends years on end on the front under difficult conditions and under fire, commanding the forces with no regret or remorse and who boosts the morale of the forces and is someone who is matryed, is a person with lofty ideals. The same applies to their families who, instead of showing impatience, proudly act as shields and are prepared to give their other children too in the path of God. This shows that this nation has lofty ideals and this is what the world fears.

All foreign media have placed us under a microscope and are watching our every move. They are regularly commenting in various ways on the leadership and other issues. Their comments were different at first. But when they saw that we will continue the imam's objectives, their tone changed.

The leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran then added: You, the brothers in the Armed Forces, other military personnel, the revolution guards corps, and the basijis are different from the rest of the Iranian nation in one way and that is that this leader was your direct commander. There was never a commander in history who was a jurisconsult and a scholar except for Solomon. Secondly, military commanders are either harsh people who have come to power through a coup or are people who have been chosen by election or selection; they are ordinary people with many weaknesses. But he was a scholar who was constantly communicating with God and, was, at the same time, a decisive commander. For this reason, I state that you should have more intellectuality than ordinary people. The Armed Forces are indebted to this great commander more than to any other group.

Armies usually enjoy popularity in the world. But the situation here was different before the revolution. He supportd the Army in such a way that it changed in nature.

Referring to movements to weaken the Armed Forces during the past decade, Ayatollah Khamene'i added: Various proposals were propounded on several occasions for dissolving the Army, but the imam always rejected these proposals decisively.

He added: In the future I will speak more with the Army. I have essential advice which, if implemented, will make the Army outstanding in the world. The Army has been involved in a war and internal plots for 10 years now. Our commanders made their positions their homes. Also, the Air Force, the Navy, and the Army support units, the defense industries, the schools, and so on, passed their tests with flying colors. There were not many organs like the Armed Forces that were the target of the enemy. All the hopeless enemies had made the Army the target of their propaganda. The enemies' malicious attacks were aimed at almost every part of the Army. But you resisted strongly and got rid of the unfit elements. These were good tests which you passed with honor. I personally like the Army. I have experienced it and I have seen its devotion.

Ayatollah Khamene'i added: Fortunately, the dear imam made a good choice in his successor as commander in chief. I also endorse this. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani is an outstanding personality, and I am happy that he is the one who has been given this responsibility. The point that I want to make is that you should increase your readiness. This does not mean that a war will take place nor that the cease-fire is shaky. No. The talks are continuing and they will yield favorable results. These are something else. But you, the Armed Forces, should not be careless. Every day the Armed Forces should be more prepared than the day before. Achieve excellent discipline and do not be satisfied with just good or even very good. The Armed Forces befitting the Islamic Republic should have high discipline and morale and should be as well equipped as possible. As stated in the imam's will, this is what self-sufficiency in the government and in the Armed Forces means. This can be done and there is nothing that a human being cannot do. Things that seem impossible can become possible through strength and determination. The Armed Forces' potential, especially on the borders, should be strengthened and any damage inflicted by the war be repaired so that anyone can see that a strong and capable commander is commanding this Army.

The role of the brothers in the ideological-political organization in helping the Armed Forces to reach that ideal point is extremely effective because belief and faith play an extremely constructive role in the strengthening of the Army. The manifstation of this movement is the imam. He was a true religious person, and these were the tools that gave him strength. Contrary to the saying that religion is an opiate, the religion of Islam stimulates.

May you be successful, and may God help you to follow the imam's path.

IRNA Gives 'Brief Biography' of Khamene'i

LD0606100689 Tehran IRNA in English 0914 GMT 6 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 6, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i who was selected as the new leader of the Islamic Republic Sunday, fought long and hard against the shah's regime, before becoming a popular politician after the Islamic revolution.

Being a mojtahed (qualified jurisprudent), he also taught the highest level of theology at the Mashhad theology center.

He is well known for his keen interest in literature and has written and translated many books on Islamic ideology and history.

After the revolution he made official visits as president to Pakistan, India, Libya, Syria, Algeria, Mozambique, Angola, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Yugoslavia, Romania, North Korea and China.

He is also currently the head of the Supreme Defence Council, member of the Assembly of Experts, head of the High Council of Expediency, head of the High Council for Reconstruction, deputy head of the Constitutional Review Council, and head of the Cultural Revolution Council.

Ayatollah Khamene'i is in command of the Iranian Turkish (Azari) and Arabic languages. He is married with six children.

The following is a brief biography:

15 July 1939: Born into a religious family in the holy city of Mashhad, capital of Khorasan Province in northeast Iran.

1958: Attended the theology leactures of Imam Khomeyni, Ayatollah Borujerdi and Ayatollah Ha'eri, the three top teachers in the Qom theological center.

1962: Joined the Islamic movement led by Imam Khomeyni.

1963: Arrested in the eastern city of Birjand while trying to deliver a message about anti-Shah protests from Imam Khomeyni to Ayatollah Milani, then the paramount Shi'a leader. He was released and returned to Qom but was arrested during a similar mission to the eastern city of Zahedan and imprisoned in Tehran's Qezel Qala prison.

1964: Organized an underground politico-ideological group along with a number of theology teachers. The group was discovered by security forces. Members escaped.

1967-69: Arrested and imprisoned several times.

1969: Came under stricter surveillance by the shah's SAVAK secret police in view of the growing incidents of armed attacks by the opponents of the regime.

1971: Organized Islamic ideology classes in hiding.

1974: Arrested and imprisoned at the anti-sabotage "komiteh" headquarters, notorious for its torture chambers.

1975: Released from prison and restarted and expanded Quran interpretation classes.

1977: Along with a number of 'ulema, drew a plan to form the nationwide Combatant 'Ulema Society, which later led to the foundation of the Islamic Republic Party. Arrested and exiled to Iranshahr, southeastern Iran.

1978: Left place of exile for Mashhad and led the Islamic movement there until the victory of the revolution. Co-founded the Islamic Republic Party with Ayatollah Beheshti, Hojjat ol-Eslam Bahonar (both martyred in 1981) and Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili in line with Imam Khomeyni's views.

1979

March: Became a member of the Revolutionary Council after the Islamic revolution.

18 Aug: Appointed deputy defence minister.

1 Dec: Commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps.

1980

19 Jan: Appointed Friday prayer leader of Tehran by Imam Khomeyni.

15 March: Elected member of Majlis from Tehran.

11 May: Chosen imam's advisor at the Supreme Defence Council.

24 Sept: Sent by imam to southern war fronts seven days after the Iraqi invasion.

1981

Seriously injured in a bomb planted by the MKO [Mojahedin-e Khalq] terrorist organization during a speech at Tehran's Abuzar Mosque. He remained in hospital for 42 days, leaving disabled in right arm.

1 Sept: Chosen secretary general of Islamic Republic Party.

5 Oct: Elected president of the Islamic Republic with 16.8 million votes (95 percent).

20 Aug 1985: Re-elected president.

4 June 1989: Selected leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Council for Reappraisal of Constitution Meets
NC0906075589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] A general session of the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution was held yesterday afternoon with Ayatollah Meshkini in the chair.

During this meeting the general points of the report on the leader and leadership experts were ratified after voting, and the deliberations on centralization in the legislative branch were studied.

The Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution will hold a general session on Monday.

Tehran Combatant Clergy Congratulate Khamene'i
LD0806174789 Tehran IRNA in English 1410 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 8, IRNA—The Tehran Society of Combatant 'Ulema (Rowhaniyun-e Mobarez) offered deep condolences to President Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i Thursday on the passing away of Imam Khomeyni and congratulated Khamene'i's election as the leader of the Republic.

A message released by the society praised the Assembly of Experts' decision following the imam's sad demise, and said the assembly lived up to its responsibility "in the shortest possible time, in view of the circumstances, necessities of the Islamic system and stability of the country."

Describing the absence of Imam Khomeyni as "an irreparable loss" and expressing deep sympathy to Iranians and the Islamic ummah in general, it said despite the great loss of its founder, "the Islamic Republic will continue to tread his radiant path."

The only remedy for Iranian Muslims against this great grief is to sincerely observe the principles of the Islamic revolution and help realize the cherished goals and aspirations of the imam.

It added that 'ulema and theological centers in accordance with the teachings of the imam are determined to implement genuine Islam. The society vowed full support for the oppressed, and urged measures against American-style Islam and its hirelings who are indifferent towards sufferings of the oppressed and have no love for either Islam or the revolution.

"The Muslim people of Iran know that the imam's soul will rest in peace only when objectives of the Islamic revolution crystalized in his speeches and guidelines are materialized," said the message.

As a pupil of the imam and one of those who suffered under the toppled regime, "the Iranian nation expects Ayatollah Khamene'i to tread the path of the great leader," it added.

The statement advised all military and civilian officials, all institutions of the Republic, all 'ulema and people to rally behind the new leader. "Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i," it noted "has throughout the years been approved and trusted by the imam."

Revolution Committees Support Khamene'i
LD0806133189 Tehran IRNA in English 1325 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 8, IRNA—The Islamic Revolution's Committee (IRC) today swore allegiance to the new leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i today.

IRC Commander Hoj. Serajeddin Musavi who called on the president along with 5,000 of his personnel, said that his forces were fully ready to carry out orders of the leader of the Islamic Republic. "Committeemen are at your service with all their might as a duty," he added.

"We are facing a great catastrophe (passing away of Imam Khomeyni)," replied Khamene'i, and called for treading the imam's path and help realize his cherished goals "if we love him." He said "This special decade of our history will never be repeated, and we should heed each and every words that the leader of the Islamic revolution had said."

"I have understood that an invisible hand has been guiding us in every matter since the victory of the Islamic revolution," Ayatollah Khamene'i quoted Imam Khomeyni as telling him in one recent meeting.

Khamene'i said enemies had fancied that they could resort to devilish tricks in the absence of the imam, but the people's massive presence in the mourning ceremonies frustrated them, to the extent, he added, they have changed their tone and acknowledged the great personality of the late founder of the Islamic Republic. He elsewhere urged the IRC to maintain its active presence and disappoint the enemies through vigilance.

Defense Minister Visits Khomeyni Family
LD0806171689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Text] Personnel belonging to the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force and the Defense Ministry and its affiliated organizations attended mourning ceremonies at Hoseyniyeh-e Jamaran this morning. Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi addressed them and referred to his holiness the imam's instructions on the Armed Forces, stressing the need for further unity among these forces. The Defense

Ministry personnel also visited the sacred grave of his holiness the imam and mourned his death by singing hymns and beating their chests.

A Central News Unit report states that Brigadier General Jalali, defense minister, accompanied by the managing director of the defense industries organization, the supervisor of the religious-political department, and a number of directors and assistant directors in the Defense Ministry, went to the late imam's residence and offered condolences to his family on the heart-rending death of Imam Khomeyni, may his dust be sanctified.

Ahmad Khomeyni Statement on Religious Funds

LD0906081189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Text] Addressing those emulators [Moqalledin] of Imam Khomeyni—the great leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran—who have charge of religious funds [those who must either pay compulsory religious dues from their own earnings or those who are in charge of such dues from others], Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni released a statement as follows:

In the name of God. Those of the dear emulators of his excellency the imam, may he be close to God, who have charge of the religious funds are informed that his excellency the imam's offices in Tehran and Qom are religiously unable to receive such funds; and in case funds are paid to those offices, then there will be no clearance of obligation.

It must be explained that immediately after the demise of the dear imam, his offices have received no funds whatsoever.

Because there are many calls to these offices, I request the honorable hojjaj ol-eslam Friday prayers leaders to guide the people to call on other centers.

[Signed] Ahmad Khomeyni
[Dated] 8 June 1989

Saudi Arabian Muslims Mourn Khomeyni's Death

LD0906080289 Tehran IRNA in English 0756 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 9, IRNA—Despite an official ban, tens of thousands of Muslims held public gatherings in eastern Saudi Arabia to mourn the passing away of the leader of the Islamic revolution.

Travellers arriving here from the Kingdom Thursday night said some 70,000 people took to the streets in the cities of al-Qatif and al-Ahsa, beating on their chests and shouting slogans, following the death of Imam Khomeyni.

Security forces in riot gear tried to stop the procession but the people's angry response and the size of the demonstration forced them to retreat.

According to published reports, the Saudi Interior Ministry had banned mourning ceremonies on the occasion. Two Shi'a leaders had also been arrested.

Muslims in eastern Saudi Arabia are largely of the Shi'a sect.

Khamene'i Meets Afghan Rebel Leaders

LD0806094989 Tehran IRNA in English 0938 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 8, IRNA—President and leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i received two leaders of the Afghan mujahidin seven-party alliance, here Thursday morning.

Sebghatullah Mojadeddi and Burhanuddin Rabbani on behalf of the Afghan Muslim people expressed condolences over the loss of the late leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni.

President Khamene'i thanking their sympathy said the late imam was not only the leader of the Iranians but of the world Muslims.

Many Muslims who took lessons from the strong will, goals and aspirations of the imam, now feel his loss and absence, he said.

The president reiterated the Islamic Republic's support for the Afghan mujahidin and people and expressed hope that through unity of all Afghan groups the Afghan nation will enjoy a good future.

Velayati Meets Afghan Mujahidin Leaders

NC0808074789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Text] Mr Mojaddadi, leader of the National Liberation Front of Afghanistan, and Mr Rabbani, leader of the Jamiyat-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan [Islamic Afghan Association], met with our foreign minister, Mr Velayati, yesterday afternoon and expressed their condolences over the great loss of Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, to the Iranian Government and nation.

During this meeting Mr Mojaddadi said: We thank you for not forgetting your Muslim brothers in Afghanistan despite your deep sorrow and under these extremely difficult conditions and for making the cause of Afghanistan's jihad your own.

Mr Rabbani said: We have come to Iran at a time when you and we have been plunged into deep sorrow on the loss of an outstanding leader and a great personality in the Islamic world.

Mr Velayati thanked the leaders of the Islamic jihad of Afghanistan for their sympathy and said: We work on the basis of the holy ideals of Imam Khomeyni toward the unity and elevation of the great ummah of the world of Islam always and under all conditions.

Majlis Speaker Receives Algerian, Libyan Guests

LD0706093489 Tehran IRNA in English 0730 GMT 7 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 7, IRNA—Imam Khomeyni was not only the leader of the Iranian nation but a great man who disturbed international equations, said president of the Algerian Popular Assembly Rabah Bitat here Tuesday.

Rabah Bitat currently here to take part in Imam Khomeyni's funeral ceremony (held Tuesday) made the remark in a meeting with Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

During the meeting in which President of Libyan Popular Congress Muftah al-Ustah 'Umar was also present, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the Iranian nation did not consider Imam Khomeyni as only belonging to them. "Despite the political responsibility the imam had in Iran, he belonged to all world Muslims," he stressed.

The Majlis speaker added that Algeria was among Islamic and Third World countries with which Iran could have promoted ties.

Turkish Official Meets With Musavi in Tehran

TA0706172989 Ankara ANATOLIA in Turkish 1637 GMT 7 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran (AA)—State Minister Cemil Cicek, currertly in Tehran as the Turkish representative at the Khomeyni funeral, was received by Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi today.

He said that during his bilateral talks with [words indistinct], Musavi and with Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the new Iranian leader, he expressed the Turkish Government's condolences.

He added that Khamene'i thanked him for the sympathy expressed by the Turkish Government in Iran's days of mourning. On his talks with Musavi, Cicek said that he stressed the promotion of relations between the two countries based on mutual respect and that Musavi supported this view.

Recalling that Omer Akbel, Turkish Ambassador to Tehran, returned to Iran with him and was present in all the meetings, Cicek said: So far I have noticed no negative feelings among Iranian leaders toward Turkey. They all have positive views. This is a sign of Iran's friendship for Turkey. Relations between the two countries must be more constructive and must be further developed.

Meanwhile, in response to a question by an ANATOLIA AGENCY correspondent, Behzad Nabavi, Iranian Heavy Industries Minister, said: Relations between Iran and Turkey are at a level that does not allow the emergence of any serious problem. If any differences arise, they will be solved through mutual efforts.

He continued: At this moment, we have no serious problems with Turkey. There were one or two small differences which we discussed with State Minister Cicek. Iran's imports from Turkey are continuing. We have a problem in our oil exports to Turkey. God willing this will also be solved soon.

Protest Demonstration Held at Turkish Embassy

LD0806155589 Tehran IRNA in English 1405 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 8, IRNA—About 100 people held a demonstration in front of the Turkish Embassy here at 12:30 hours local time (09:00 GMT) today in protest to the publication of articles in the Turkish press insulting the deceased leader of the Islamic revolution of Iran.

The demonstrators chanting slogans of 'Down with Turkey' and 'Death to Evren' intended to enter the embassy but were prevented by law-enforcement forces. One person who had climbed the embassy wall trying to enter the compound was arrested.

The angry demonstrators were kept away by anti-riot police and Islamic revolution's committeemen and a committeeman repeatedly invited them to maintain patience. The demonstrators left the site at 14:15 hours local time (10:45 GMT).

It is to be recalled that a group of Muslim students of the Istanbul University held a demonstration in front of the University's Political Sciences faculty Tuesday in protest to the insult of the Turkish media to Imam Khomeyni.

The demonstrators holding copies of the Turkish newspapers set them afire as a sign of their support for the late imam. They also chanted slogans against the authors of the articles, "Zionist-Backed Press and International Zionism."

Foreign Ministry Delegation Arrives in Moscow

LD0206144889 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 2 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 2, IRNA—An Iranian delegation headed by Foreign Ministry's Director General for Consular Affairs 'Abdollah Zifan arrived in Moscow Friday. The delegation is visiting Moscow at the invitation of the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

Soviet Official Denies Reports of Arms Deal

JN3105173389 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 30 May 89 p 1

[Text] Moscow, AL-ITTIHAD—A Soviet official has denied news reports that his country will conclude a $3-billion arms deal with Iran.

The Soviet official said the news report published in Paris by L'EXPRESS is unrealistic; we have announced more than once that the Middle East has become a huge arms arsenal.

The official indicated that his country will discuss with Iranian Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani during his Moscow visit the issue of offering assistance to help reconstruct some Iranian economic installations.

Foreign Ministry Condemns Israeli Attacks in Lebanon

LD0306175989 Tehran IRNA in English 1624 GMT 3 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June IRNA—The Foreign Ministry today condemned the new wave of Zionist attacks on south Lebanon and the Al-Biqa' Valley, and expressed support for the struggles of the Islamic forces.

The fresh Zionist crimes against the "oppressed Lebanese people and Palestinian refugees," it said, take place at a time when the media and political forums talk about a massive Zionist attack on Lebanon in support of the Phalangists.

The Foreign Ministry deplored the fact that "reactionary regimes instead of fulfilling their Islamic and humanitarian duties vis-a-vis the oppressed people of Lebanon and Palestine, have again decided to turn a blind eye to Zionist expansionism."

It also warned against the grave consequences of silence and overlooking of the Zionist attacks.

Report on Khamene'i's 2 Jun Friday Prayers Sermon

LD0206180189 [Editorial Report] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1255 GMT on 2 June broadcasts a recording of the second Friday prayer sermon, led by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. He gives a brief history of Iran's relations with Tanzania. He then discusses International Childrens' Day and launches into a discourse on birth control, saying the people should not claim that Islam favors large families. He speaks about the environment and the importance of preserving nature.

He moves on to speak about the demonstrations staged in London by British Muslims against author Salman Rushdie. The British authorities, he says, beat the demonstrators and blocked their route. He says: "How can the British Government have the audacity to claim that it defends freedom of speech? If expressing opinion is free, and should be free, why is it that you do not allow tens of thousands of Muslims to express their views and opinions in total freedom? Why? This is a reality. This characteristic lies in the fact that the issue in the book written by that misguided writer was that of opposition to Islam, and not the issue of the freedom of speech. The issue is that world arrogance is trembling as a result of the Islamic cultural movement. The global arrogance, the United States, England, and the rest, have sensed that the Islamic revival is undermining the arrogant interests. They want to deliver a blow—a military blow, like the way they came to the Persian Gulf and delivered what they believed to be a military blow. There are economic blows, and this is a cultural blow. Whoever in the world commits a cultural act against Islam enjoys their support. I announce that this very massive rally staged by the British Muslims is a perfect example of how Muslims worldwide have discovered the Islamic awakening. And now power can rob them of such an awakening." [crowd chants "Death to England"]

"We support the action of our Muslim brothers in England. We encourage them to pursue the cause of freedom of speech. This is not interference in anyone's internal affairs. We do not interfere in anyone's internal affairs. This is explicitly mentioned in our Constitution, and we do not interfere in the internal affairs of any country, and will not do so. But the issue is an Islamic issue. It is an issue concerning the Islamic nations." He says that Muslims will not easily forget the Rushdie issue.

Concluding the sermon, Khamene'i says: "Well, we have run out of time. I had intended to elaborate on another issue concerning the Council for the Appraisal of the Constitution, but I have to leave it for another week as there is no time left.

"There is another matter on which the people have asked me tell them about, and that is the condition of his excellency the imam. Yesterday, when I visited his excellency the imam, thanks be to God, he was in good health, and he has been well since then. Both the cardiologists and the cardiac surgeons expressed their satisfaction in the imam's condition. The surgeons said that the surgery had gone better than they had expected. Of course, in one so old as his excellency the imam surgery is a difficult task, and recovery is not so easy. But they said that they were satisfied as it had gone better than expected." He then prays for Khomeyni's recovery and pays tribute to a martyr whose coffin was brought to the Friday prayers.

Urges Birth Control, Conservation

LD0206133989 Tehran IRNA in English 1158 GMT 2 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 2, IRNA—Large families were necessary for the spread of Islam in its early years but multiple-births is not recommended by Islam for all times, President 'Ali Khamene'i said.

Speaking on World Children's Day (June 1) Khamene'i said he would not "reject or insist on" birth control to slow down the population boom. But in his Friday address, the president said those who wanted more children should not resort to Islam to back their case.

When Islam emerged there were perhaps no more than 100,000 people in the Arabian Peninsula, including the cities of Mecca and al-Madinah.

Thus to be able to establish the Islamic civilization Prophet Muhammad needed more people and encouraged the faithful to have more children, Khamene'i said. "But this does not mean that for the rest of history every Muslim family is obliged to have 8, 10, 12 kids. Don't make an excuse out of the prophet if you want to have more children."

Khamene'i said it was obvious that fewer children were easier to bring up and parents could pay more attention to them.

The government has been trying to encourage people, apparently only in some rural areas, to use contraceptives but there has been no national plan to reduce the population growth currently at 3.7 percent a year, which is one of the highest in the world. The population according to the latest census is over 50 million and is expected to reach 100 million in 20 years.

Last December supporters and opponents of population control clashed in the press, with the latter saying it was an excuse to cover up lack of planning and the former saying it was impossible to preserve an acceptable standard of living for so many people.

But several high ranking theologians noted that if it became necessary, plans to control the population could be implemented by the government without violating Islamic law.

In a seminar on Tuesday, Agriculture Minister 'Isa Kalantari warned that the present bureaucratic system could not attend to the fast growing population's needs.

About 7,000 children are born each day, or 2,555,000 a year, and the ministry had to implement plans to feed the extra mouths, the seminar heard.

In his Friday prayer sermon, Khamane'i also urged people to protect the natural environment, especially to preserve forests which had been reduced by millions of hectares in the past four decades. He strongly warned those who destroyed forests in the northern provinces for narrow, personal interest and said the law would be strictly applied against them.

"The forests is a wealth and improper use of it is a crime... The forests belong to the nation—to everybody," he stressed.

He also said a certain species of deer only found in Iran was being wiped out because too many had been killed by hunters. "Those who know say very few of these valuable and beautiful deers are left. Why? Because a gentleman has taken his gun and blown this animal to pieces for the sake of spending time."

Meshkini's Friday Prayers Sermons in Qom Noted
LD0206195389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Jun 89

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] At the beginning of his sermons the Qom Friday prayers leader Ayatollah Meshkini recommended the people observe divine piety. [passage omitted]

Continuing his remarks, Ayatollah Meshkini referred to the decision adopted by the Council of Reappraisal of the Constitution of the topic of leadership. Stating that leadership by the imam of the ummah is a divine blessing and that only he can hold the status of leadership and also be a source of emulation [marja'], Ayatollah Meshkini emphasized:

The Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution, by eliminating the condition that the leader be a source of emulation, has decreed that experts elected by the people will, from among just, courageous jurisconsults [faqih] with managerial capability and who possess the required political and social insight, elect one as leader and introduce him to the people.

The president of the Council for the Reappriasal of the Constitution then referred to the decisions made on centralization of the executive and judicial powers and radio and television and said: The Council for Reappraisal of the Constitution, attentive to the instruction of the imam of the ummah and by looking at the problems and shortages stemming from the fact that management in executive and judicial powers has been on a consultative basis, concluded that a single qualified theologian who is just, pious, wise, and has managerial skills should be appointed by the leaders as the head of judicial power to administer all the country's judicial courts.

On centralization of the executive powers, with the elimination of the position of prime minister, the position of the head of executive power will be entrusted to the president, who is elected by the people.

Meanwhile, the management of radio and television will be entrusted to a single person whose selection is among the powers of the leader.

At the end of his remarks, Ayatollah Meshkini referred to ways to review the Constitution and said: With the approval of a plan submitted to the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution, in cases of necessity 80 individuals, consisting of the members of the Council of Guardians, heads of the three branches, members of the Expediency Discernment Council, and representatives

of the leader, the Assembly of Experts, Friday prayers leaders, Armed Forces, universities, and guilds [asnaf] will reapraise the cases in question in the Constitution and amend its articles through popular referendum.

*** Yazdi on Constitutional Changes, Leadership**
46400085 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
10 May 89 pp 3, 5

[Text] Preface: Following the discussions on the issue of "leadership" and the phases specified in the imam's letter to the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution, we intend to seek and present the views of the respected jurists and other members of this council in regards to leadership and concentration of power in the executive branch. Following is a detailed interview by our correspondent with Ayatollah Yazdi in regards to these five phases

In this interview Ayatollah Yazdi—while pointing out the qualifications for "leadership" from the perspective of a source of emulation and the necessary conditions from the perspectives of wisdom, management and bravery—emphasized the need for obedience from and adherence to all the decrees of "the leader" by the followers, as well as sources of emulation.

He also called for the concentration of power in the executive branch to be in the form of delegating of authority and responsibilities to the president in the Constitution.

Following is the text of the interview:

RESALAT: In your opinion what changes should be made in the Constitution regarding "leadership?"

Yazdi: In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. If we refer to the articles regarding leadership in the present Constitution we see that Articles 5, 107, and 109 are indeed the most important articles regarding the issue of leadership. Of course, the issue of limits of authority is another discussion. You see that Article 5 asserts that during the time of the absence of the absent imam, the administration of Islamic society in the Islamic Republic is the responsibility of a jurist who is just, pious, aware of the requirements of the times, brave, capable of management and wise, and who has been recognized and accepted by the majority of people as their leader. Therefore, except for just, capable of management, and wise requirements there are no other in this article. As a result, such a jurist should be recognized by the people as a suitable leader and thus should be elected. However, when we refer to Article 107 we note that in the second part of this article it is said that, "otherwise, the experts elected by the people shall study and consult when a one with special qualifications for leadership is found and appoint him to the Council of Leadership." Then, the discussion is on what is the meaning of this qualification for leadership and jurisprudence. Before this discussion was brought up and the reappraisal and correction of the Constitution began, we were under the impression that qualification and source of emulatiaon is the same issue as when it is said: "What are the qualifications to becoming a university professor from the point of view of scientific qualification, age, seniority, etc...?" Does it mean that if one wants to become a university professor, one must have a doctorate degree? Then we may say that those who hold doctorate degrees are Muslim, are in a certain age group, and believe in the regime of Islamic Republic are qualified to be university professors. In laymen's terms, the qualification to do a job is not enough simply in the sense of its practicality. It is not enough to say: "They now have the practical qualification to do the job." What does it mean when we say: "Those who are qualified as source of emulation?" It means that people should be able to follow them. There is no discussion of "leadership" in "source of emulation." The discussion evolves around those who emulate their source of emulation in regards to religious decrees. From the point of view of religious principles, who should be the authority on religious questions? We mean in order to emulate, it shoulc be the jurist who encompasses all qualifications, and who is the absolute jurisprudent. This means that one should be male, believe in the 12 imams, be just, be of proper birth, and other conditions mentioned in detail in religious books. Such a person is qualified to be a source of emulation, meaning he can become one. Now, is whoever qualifies as a source of emulation also qualified as a leader? In Articles 5 and 107 this point has been addressed: Besides the qualifications for source of emulation, a "leader" must also be brave, able to manage, wise, and possess other qualifications according to the letter of the law. Therefore, may we say that whoever is a source of emulation or is qualified to be one may also be "the leader?" No. According to the letter of this article, leadership is for those who are qualified for source of emulation and leadership.

What are the requirements for qualification for source of emulation? Absolute jurisprudence, being just, believing in the 12 imams, being male, and being of proper birth, and so on.

What are needed for qualification for leadership? Ability to manage, wisdom and bravery. Therefore, all the qualifications for leadership and source of emulation must be gathered and must be evident in one, so that one is considered fit for the position of leadership.

Now, whoever is qualified for leadership and source of emulation must also be elected. There may be more than one candidate qualified to be the leader and source of emulation . Like other qualifications inherent in people who do not have practical responsibility, it does not mean that whoever is theoretically qualified is in practice responsible. This responsibility is sometimes delegated by the people directly—exactly as was the case with the imam—and sometimes through selection by the [Council of] Experts. The experts determine who are most suitable and qualified for source of emulation and leadership.

If they find one to be suitable, they specify him and if not, they select between three or five persons. In the last sentence of Article 107 this phrase has been added: "Otherwise, three or five persons qualified for leadership will be selected as members of the Leadership Council." It has come to the minds of the gentlemen that this source of emulation is meant to be the practical sourceof emulation. However, in our view, it is not the practical source of emulation, but is one which is qualified for a source of emulation. This reason is quite clear. However, a fundamental question is: What is the real meaning of the source of emulation? A Muslim emulates the religious decrees of the jurisprudent and the jurisprudent provides the decrees of God in regards to religion and other matters. Thus, adherence to these decrees is a requirement for those who emulate.

However, in the position of leadership and government it takes a different shape. The leader in an Islamic government says: "I, as governor and leader, say do this or do not do that. You must go to the fronts or end the war. You must pay this amount or not pay this amount." A leader can order interference or confiscation. In other words, a leader is one who is the "master of the order." It means that he can "forbid and oppose" in regards to the belongings of people. It also means that he can interfere in all aspects of people's lives. In our times, we see many who emulate one who is not a leader and the same ones do not recognize their source of emulation as their leader. They emulate a source of emulation whom they consider an exceptional and just person in jurisprudence and, even, may know him as the most learned. However, from the point of view of leadership, they do not see him as a powerful person. Therefore, you see that, in our times, they emulate a certain gentleman, but, they see the imam in the position of leadership. In this regard one can see that there are those who are sources of emulation and have followers but, the very same sources of emulation say that the leadership of the Islamic society must be the responsibility of a certain just jurisprudent, like in our time. There are many sources of emulation who, although have followers, say that the leadership must be the responsibility of the imam.

When we pay attention to this principle on the basis of religion, the leader is the all-encompassing jurisprudent or just source of emulation who is an able manager, and is wise and brave. However, is it necessary that he be the source of emulation as well? No, it is not necessary. It is better if he is, but if he is not, this shall not be the cause for not being able to be a leader. It means that an all-encompassing jurist, and we emphasize all-encompassing, shall possess the same qualifications required for a jurist who wants to represent the [absent] imam in the time of his absence. This all-encompassing jurist can be responsible for the affairs of people—if he possesses the qualifications for management of people's affairs. However, to be a source of emulation, he may be one or not. It means that being a source of emulation is not a religious condition for being a leader. The one who seeks to take on the leadership of the Islamic society must be qualified to be a source of emulation. It means that he should be one who can be followed if he is sought to be followed. One could be a leader if, when he is sought to be a source of emulation, he will qualify religiously. The requirement for leadership does not necessitate having [religious] followers and the right to issue decrees. Therefore, conditions for leadership, may they be qualifications for being a source of emulation or the conditions stipulated in Article 105, could only be applied to an acceptable and suitably effective leader. Ruling and governing affairs differ from stating the orders and decrees of God. Therefore, the one who—on the basis of religion—seeks to rule and govern, takes over the affairs of the imamate [religious leadership] of society, takes on the leadership, is practical source of emulation and for all people to emulate him, does not require any religious basis. Religiously, he should be one who may be emulated, if he is sought to be and he should be an an all-encompassing jurist qualified to issue decrees.

There is a much better interpretation in the Article 109. This article states that scientific eligibility and piety are qualifications required for being a source of emulation qualified to issue decrees. Thus, if he desires to issue decrees, he should be able to do so, and if people wish to refer to him, they will be able to do so. This issue of scientific and piety qualifications required for being a decree-issuing source of emulation is one issue, and being a source of emulation in practice is another. In our view, the best way—on the basis of religious principles and for eradication of problems—is that the one who wishes to take on the leadership of people should be qualified to issue decrees and be a source of emulation. However, should he be a source of emulation in practice? No, he is not required to be, but it is required of him to be an all-encompassing source, meaning he should be a just jurist and an absolute jurisprudent.

This is in the argument for leadership and does not mean that the wording of Article 107 means that being a source of emulation in practice is the qualification for a source of emulation to be the leader. Indeed, the previous interpretation by the Council of Guardians focused on that last sentence of Article 107 which states: "Otherwise, three or five authorities fully qualified for leadership shall be selected as members of the Leadership Council." It was their interpretation that they be sources of emulation in practice, but it is my understanding that these are ones who possess the qualifications of being sources of emulation, as well as being leaders and the word "qualification" never conveys the meaning of putting it into practice.

Very well, what should be done in regards to the reappraisal of the constitution is that the source of emulation in practice is not needed. Religious principles do not indicate this and there is no religious basis for having a source of emulation in practice, but there is a religious requirement for an absolute jurisprudent in practice. When one is an absolute jurist, and is all-encompassing and qualified to issue decrees, one is also qualified for

leadership but he is not actually a source of emulation. What is the meaning of "not a source of emulation?" Does it mean that the majority of people do not emulate him? Now that the majority of people do not emulate him, does it mean that he is not qualified to be a source of emulation? Or that he is not an absolute jurist?

Whoever is an absolute jurist must be just, male, and a believer in the 12 imams, of proper-birth, and possess the qualifications of a source of emulation and leadership, and therefore, needs no other qualifications—meaning also that there is no religious basis for it.

Article 5 remains unchanged and the wording of Article 107 changes slightly for clarification purposes. Although there was no doubt in my mind and it was thus was my understanding for those who were under the impression that the meaning of the phrase "3 or 5 sources" means sources in practice, this phrase may be corrected or deleted altogether. But, from the content, a "leader" is one who is an absolute and all-encompassing jurist, an able and wise manager for whom jurisprudence is one of the conditions. And, according to religious principles, not all jurists can be leaders because wisdom, ability to manage, and awareness of the issues of the time are conditions for leadership.

In any case, from the point of the context, the nature of the required changes in the law has not yet been considered in commissions. After composition, the form of its context should be considered an approved by the 25-member Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution.

RESALAT: Has there been a new discussion in the Council of Guardians regarding the interpretation of Article 107 of the Constitution?

Yazdi: There has been no independent discussion. However, as you know, jurists from the Council of Guardians were also present in that gathering, there have been indirect discussions and the respected legal experts of the Council of Guardians have been invited to cooperate regarding the issues which have legal dimensions and they have expressed their enthusiasm and willingness [to cooperate.]

Of course, after referring to the interpretation of the Council of Guardians I realized that the council's interpretation is that of "source of emulation in practice." Anyhow, if there is to be a clarification, at least it should be corrected by returning to the word "source of emulation" with a pronoun or any other form which would be approved.

RESALAT: If these corrections result in the separation of leadership from the source of emulation, in your opinion what provisions must be considered? In principle, it is possible that decrees issued by the leader may oppose decrees issued by a source of emulation. In a cases like this, what is the duty of the emulators of that jurist?

Yazdi: This is a very interesting discussion. This discussion has come up many times and we have responded to it. Before the revolution we were told that, because you [mullahs] believe all jurists have jurisdiction and can function as authorities and people are duty bound to follow, you can never govern because at all times there are between 5 to 10 jurists with differing opinions. Therefore, you will always be plagued by differences of opinions and not be able to govern. We used to answer, even at that time, that there are differences between "decree" and "governing." There are differences between "source of emulation" and the position of the "imamate." Being a source of emulation means that, for example, he may be asked his opinion about three-part prayers and four-part prayers. Shall we read three praises in the third and the fourth part or one? One source of emulation may say that if you read one praise it is adequate and another one may say that you should definitely read three praises. Some people follow the former and read one praise while some follow the latter and read three praises and this has never caused any problem for Muslim people even though they emulate different sources of emulation and continue to do so. There are always different jurists with differing views who issue different decrees. People are their emulators and, in their emulating, act differently and there are no difficulties there. However, the problem is with management, leadership, and governing. The one who is the source of emulation cannot issue a decree that opposes the order of a leader in an administrative position. It means that two sources of emulation cannot have two opposing decrees. In case one source of emulation issues a decree the other one cannot issue one which contradicts it. In case of a just jurist, he may issue a decree in opposition [to a leader] but cannot issue a verdict or an order in opposition, as is the case in judgment. Suppose, if there are two judges in a judicial case and one has issued a decree in regards to the case then the other one, and actually no other judge has the right to issue a decree in regards to the same case even though they are both sources of emulation and judges. Presently, in our courts, all judges working in our courts have the right to issue decrees and the right to investigate. When a judge is investigating a case, anyone may state their opinion but after the decree is issued, no other judge may object or give his opinion.

This is also the case in governmental issues. When the one who is in the position of leadership gives an order then no other source can issue an opposing decree in regarding the same matter. If a source wishes to issue an order in opposition to another source then it, inadvertently, damages his position. There are times when one issues a decree when there is no problem. Even at these times the imam holds different opinions regarding the decrees of many sources and there is nothing wrong with this. However, in matters of state-such as war—when an order has been issued [by the imam] other sources cannot dispute it and there is no problem.

RESALAT: Some believe that, in principle, leadership in the form that has been prescribed in the Constitution is

not needed. If people elect a president and the Council of Guardians is the protector of the limits set by God, then what is the meaning of leadership? What are your views?

Yazdi: It seems to me that in this discussion a basic principle should be taken into consideration. The fundamental difference between the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran or, in general, an Islamic government with other governments of the world is of concern in this issue. The principle backbone of powers in the world are the people and their opinions. They state that people wanted that person and therefore, naturally, this person can assume the responsibilities and manage the country. Or the majority voted for him, and therefore, he can assume the role of the ruler. However, in the Islamic Republic no one has the right to rule over another. The right to rule belongs, first, to God who has created his subjects and rules over them and has the right of interference in all aspects of their lives. God has conveyed this right of interference to some of his subjects. It means that His prophet, aside from being His messenger, is also His khalif in executions. This is the very same issue of the imamate after prophecy. Prophecy is the conveyance of religious orders to people but the imamate is the execution of God's orders among people and ensuring their proper implementation. In other words, the imamate is the implementation of God's orders and prophecy is the conveyance of God's orders. They both are chosen by God and He has appointed the prophet of Islam as His imam also, which I do not aim to discuss here.

There are [Koranic] verses which prove the positions of prophecy and the imamate for the prophet. Therefore, if the prophet made a decree and gave an order no man or woman from among the believers can violate, have any other option or disobey. One must definitely act according to the order. These verses prove the position of the imamat for the prophet. Therefore, God has bestowed the position of guardian upon the prophet after the position of prophecy and the prophet was not only the messenger but also the messenger and the imam and the messenger and the leader. It means that he declared the government and implemented it. With governmental decrees he would give responsibility to some. With governmental decrees he would send some to war, would assign a position, would take away a post and other activities related to the government. This was due to his position as imam and this position was bestowed upon him by God. After the prophet, God has bestowed the position of imam on the 12 imams, one after the other. In the time of absence [of the 12th imam] this position is given to jurists, according to the order of the [12th] imam. It means that leadership in the Islamic government is not by election. It is not such that people can be elective. Leadership, in the fundamental and basic structure of the government, is by God's appointment. It must be from the All-Knowing God. But, ultimately, it does not mean that people and their votes have no credibility and value. The giving of such an impression must be avoided. Our present Constitution has assigned special credibility to people's votes and so do we except in the framework of general considerations. In other words, in the time of the innocent imam and after the time of the prophet, at the time of each of our imams [A'emeh], our imams occupied the position of imamate and leadership and the responsibility of government was theirs. If people voted or did not, acted or did not they were responsible and government had come to them from God. If others came and interfered and did not let him perform his duties, it is another issue. He, appointed by God, was the ruler, the guardian of the order. He had the God given right to confiscate and interfere in the affairs of people.

The difference between the time of absence and the time of presence is that at the time of presence a specific person has been appointed by God and the prophet. Naturally he is the imam. However, in the time of absence a specific person has not been appointed. Only a title with varying interpretations has been determined, meaning that "Those who are the conveyers of the accounts of the prophet's life and witnesses for right and wrong know our decrees...." We appoint the interpretations of such a person to be your rule [to follow.] We appoint such a person as judge. This is a title, meaning any jurist who is witness to right and wrong has knowledge of God's decrees. Therefore, jurisprudence is a general term. At any time there may be 4 to 5 jurists. Jurists who fit these descriptions are therefore appointed. To determine applicability for people, it is said that this jurist possesses these advantages for taking on the responsibility of leadership and he should be the administrator.

When he takes on the leadership, others will obey him. Other jurists will obey him. We must bear in mind that the imam in a letter to the president of the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution, Mr Meshkini—who is also the president of the Assembly of Experts—points out this sentence: "The rule of the jurist who is selected by the people's experts will, naturally, be effective." Why? Because people have elected the Assembly of Experts and the Experts have selected this jurist. Therefore, qualification and leadership become evident and appear in him. Otherwise, any jurist, in general, is in the position of appointment by the imam of the time [absent imam] and the innocent imams. At the time of the absence, jurists have the responsibility of representing the imamate and as representatives carry on the duties of the imamate and all that is in the care of the imam is also in the care of his representative. However, when there are 5 or 6 jurists which one should act in the position of leadership and executive? Because not all of them can execute orders, clashes can arise. The experts elected by people shall select one from among the jurists and declare him as superior and fit for leadership. When such a jurist becomes a leader, according to the imam's interpretation, his order will be binding.

The statement that we, in the regime of Islamic Republic, do not need a leader because the three branches function and the Council of Guardians safeguards the

religious decrees is not correct. The reason is that the leader of Islamic government who possesses the characteristics of a just jurist, is the absolute source of emulation and is, also, an able manager and wise then, his decisions must be obeyed. Therefore, he has the right to confiscate and interfere in all affairs of people. Henceforth, the legitimacy of the three branches in the order and even the Council of Guardians depends upon the existence of leadership.

Of course, to fill this post, people cannot give the responsibility to someone and give him absolute power but, according to the laws of religion, this responsibility must be within the frame work of Islamic rules. Therefore, people do not have the right to give orders and only the one who has the right may do so. According to Islamic principles no one has the right to rule others. However, social necessities dictate that rules of government somehow be executed. And, this necessity also prompts that the rule be given to a person. According to Islamic rule this responsibility goes to the one who is also appointed by the Creator, otherwise it will not be legitimate.

The principle difference between Islamic rule and other governments is that the primary foundation for government in Islam is the rule of the Almighty, the prophet appointed by Him, the imams who work on behalf of the prophet and God and then imam's representatives who work on behalf of the imam which who in fact works on behalf of God and the prophet. Therefore, without God-selected people it [government] will be not legitimate. In other governments of the world this principle does not exist and, actually, the system of appointment of rule to a government does not have anything to do with such discussions and is only dependent upon the right of people. Therefore, in those governments any misdeed is dependent upon the right of people and, therefore, is permitted. Such a thing does not exist in Islam and in the Islamic system of government the vote of people to implement a rule against the rule of God is null and void. But, as we said, in non-Islamic governments the legitimacy of appropriate or inappropriate actions lies solely with the vote of people.

In Islamic governments, if people vote to give the rule to a person and this person is not connected [as published] to the will of God, then he cannot rule even though all the people have voted for him.

I repeat this point so as to prevent the misunderstanding that we do not attach any credit to the vote of people in the regime of Islamic rule. We recognize the credibility of people's votes in the framework of Islamic laws. The people's vote is limited by Islamic decrees; it is credible so long as it does not clash with Islamic rules. Where there is a clash it automatically loses its credibility. Therefore, if the majority or all want something which is against God's will, then it cannot be done.

RESALAT: Please state your opinion in regards to the perspectives mentioned in the imam's letter, particularly with regard to the concentration [of power] in the executive branch.

Yazdi: With regard to this discussion there are several views. Elimination of the position of prime minister, presidency or appointing someone to the post of vice president and other possibilities. It is my view that the powers of president should increase, ministers selected by the president should receive a vote of confidence from the Majles and a person in the position of the vice president should be made responsible for the cabinet. I believe that in the present form there will be clashes and disturbances.

RESALAT: Of course, there are views on the method of controlling the president by Majles.

We shall point out that in the Constitution in order to avoid the occurrence of power-monopolization power has been disbursed and one is influenced by another. However, the experiences of the past 10 years have shown that for management, and specifically for decision making, the more consultation the better. In execution, consultation is mostly detrimental.

In specification of general guidelines and policies and decisionmaking in regards to the method of execution of laws, which is the responsibility of the Majles, the more consultation the better and more advantageous. This is because, in regards to each bill, proponents and opponents state their views and then vote on the issue. In this phase the more consultation the better will be the quality of work. In execution and implementation of bills there is no need for consultation because it will result in disturbance. It is for this reason that the imam has emphasized on the concentration [of power] in the executive branch. It is our impression about the concentration that, the president shall remain and, anyway, ministers are appointed through the Majles. The Council of Ministers will be headed by the president. Then the president can manage the affairs of the country decisively and, automatically, issues will move forward resolutely and executive weaknesses will be eradicated. Of course, supervision by the Majles will stay the same. In regards to approving the qualifications of a minister or in case of the appearance of weakness in the execution stage, it [the Majles] may question him and, ultimately, has the right to deny him a vote of confidence. Presently, with the changes in the areas which I mentioned, the authority of the Majles is protected.

Anyhow, it is our view that having two powers heading the executive branch is unsuccessful. Now, why do we say the president [shall remain] when one may say remove the position of presidency and keep the prime minister? Here, the gap between the leadership and the premier will be quite wide because the president is elected by the people and is acceptable to the majority, but the prime minister is selected by the Majles. If the

Majles questions the government then the whole of the executive branch will collapse and only the leadership will remain. In this case there will be a vacuum. But, in the case of a president elected by people, even if that Council of Ministers is removed due to questioning [by the Majles] there will be no effect because the president, as the head of executive branch, will remain but the composition of ministers will change.

RESALAT: One of the authorities of the Majles is the right to vote on the incompetence of the president.

Yazdi: Yes, this has been mentioned in the law. Here, if the leader does not endorse this ruling the vote by itself is not adequate. In the case of the council of ministers, the Majles, alone, can topple the government. But in the case of the president the leader must endorse the vote of the Majles in regards to his incompetence.

Therefore, there is more emphasis on leadership than on the Majles. Presidential power is dependent upon people in which case it will be more successful in execution as oppose to a power dependent upon the Majles which will be linked to people through an intermediary. Thus, we imagine that concentration leans more—and is more advantageous—on the side of keeping the presidency and delegating more power to it.

Pakistan

Bhutto Says Talks With U.S. Leaders 'Useful'

BK0906031589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto has said that she had very useful talks with President Bush and other American leaders. Addressing a crowded news conference at Harvard University, the prime minister said she undertook visit to the United States to reaffirm old ties and friendship with that country.

The prime minister also answered questions on various international issues. In reply to a question, she said Pakistan also enjoys close and long-standing relations and friendship with China. She remarked that anything that disturbed peace and tranquillity in that country is a matter of concern to us.

Replying to another question, Ms Benazir Bhutto said Pakistan neither had a nuclear device, nor intended to make one.

On the Middle East problem, the prime minister said the best way to solve the problem is the implementation of the UN resolutions.

The prime minister said countries with a democratic system and free nations should support the new democratic countries or where a democratic process is about to begin.

In reply to a question, the prime minister said women in Pakistan are being provided job opportunities that will result in creating confidence and protection among them. Literacy and other things will follow once the economic protection is available to them.

ANP, IJI Join Forces in Provincial Government

BK0906005789 Hong Kong AFP in English 2137 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Text] Islamabad, June 8 (AFP)—A pro-Moscow party and the conservative opposition group announced Thursday that they were joining forces against the government in North-West Frontier Province led by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's party.

The president of the Marxist Awami National Party (ANP), Nasim Wali Khan, and the chief of the right-wing Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI), Nawaz Sharif, told a press conference they had decided to cooperate in the national interest and for the improvement of the people in the province. The province borders Afghanistan.

Mrs. Wali Khan said her party's alliance with Ms Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) in the North-West Frontier Province had collapsed because Ms Bhutto failed to implement an agreement reached in December.

The ANP, which support the pro-Moscow government in Kabul, has sought the appointment of an ANP member as provincial governor.

Asked if the new alliance would show its strength on the floor of the 87-member provincial house, Mr. Sharif asked: "You have any doubt?"

Mrs. Wali Khan said the 14 ANP members in the house would work in close coordination with the IJI, which has 18 members, against PPP's 29.

Ten IJI members, without formally quitting the party had earlier formed a "forward bloc" which supported the PPP government.

Independents hold the balance with 13 seats.

The PPP would face hostile governments in three of Pakistan's four provinces if the IJI secured a vote of no confidence against the government in North-West Frontier Province.

Islamabad Announces Agreement

BK0906024989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] The Awami National Party [ANP] and the Islamic Democratic Alliance [IDA] have announced an agreement to cooperate in the North-West Frontier Province [NWFP] assembly. The announcement was made at a

news conference jointly addressed by IDA President Mr Nawaz Sharif and the ANP leader in the NWFP assembly, Begum Nasim Wali Khan in Islamabad yesterday.

Answering a question, Begum Nasim Wali Khan said the ANP differs with the Pakistan People's Party on the Afghanistan problem and a similar situation exists with the IDA.

Answering another question as to whether the Jamiyat-i Islami has any objection to the ANP-IDA alliance, Mr Nawaz Sharif said the Jamiyat-i Islami is a component of the IDA and there are no differences between them.

Political Solution to Afghanistan Issue Urged

BK0406131489 Karachi DAWN in English 23 May 89 p 7

[Editorial: "Threats From Kabul"]

[Text] The situation on the Afghan front is quite grim. While the battle for Jalalabad has been stalemated for some time, the war of words between Kabul and Islamabad is picking up and has taken on a menacing aspect. General Najibullah's warning on Saturday [20 May] that the risk of war with Pakistan was growing and his threat to blast Afghan Mujahidin bases across the Durand Line [dividing Pakistan and Afghanistan] have raised the level of tension in the region. These statements are also indicative of the PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan] Government's unease at its weakening position. By alleging Pakistani military intervention on behalf of the guerrillas, Mr Najibullah is evidently trying to internationalise the Afghan problem and seize the diplomatic initiative. He has tried to keep the issue of the so-called Pakistani intervention alive by periodically firing verbal volleys in the direction of Islamabad, accusing it of violating the Geneva accords. Earlier this month an Afghan Scud missile attack on Bannu district came as a stark reminder that Kabul would not hesitate to act if necessary to lend credence to its warnings. In these circumstances, Pakistan's firm response on Sunday warning Kabul of strong retaliatory action is the least it could have done to put the bellicose men in Kabul on proper notice. After all, it is the primary duty of the Government to act in the interest of national security and defend the territory and the people of the country against outside aggression.

However, such exchanges are not exactly reassuring since they run counter the cause of peace and stability in the region. Three months after the Russian troops withdrew from Afghanistan, this Southwest Asian country is still in the grip of a civil war. Although the Soviet pull-out has been a positive factor in the regional strategic balance, the failure of the Afghan factions to reach a political settlement has kept the country in perpetual turmoil. The so-called positive symmetry which permits the superpowers to continue supplying arms to their clients in Afghanistan has kept hostilities raging. This steady flow of arms, combined with the political, ideological and tribal polarisation in Afghanistan, has proved to be the major factor in the bloodletting and devastation we are witnessing today. But the plain fact is that a military victory by one or the other side—an unlikely prospect on current evidence—will not bring permanent peace to Afghanistan. On the other hand, a political settlement can be durable only if it is based on the principle of national self-determination for the Afghans. This would be possible if the future political dispensation in Afghanistan enjoys the consensus of all shades of opinion in the country. The leaders of the multifarious groups—the Mujahidin, the refugees, the local commanders, tribal leaders and the ruling party in Kabul—would have to sit round the negotiating table to decide how the Afghans are to exercise their choice for the future political leadership of their nation. The superpowers can help by reversing their agreement on 'positive symmetry'and discontinuing arms supplies to the combatants.

It is in the interest of both Afghanistan and Pakistan that the fighting on the other side of the Durand Line is brought to a halt as soon as possible. The continuing conflict is devastating the social fabric and economic infrastructure of the country and the longer this goes on the more difficult would be the task of reconstruction and the greater the suffering for the Afghan refugees and non-combatants. As it is, the country has been unable to get started on the rebuilding and rehabilitation task on account of the continuing hostilities and the terrible dislocation that it has caused. Pakistan continues to suffer the spillover effects of the Afghan war and there is certainly a limit to its capacity to continue to do so, without putting its own security and other vital interests at risk. Now is the time for a serious move to seek an Afghan solution on the political level.

'Salient Features' of 1989-90 Budget Carried

BK0806130389 Karachi DAWN in English 4 Jun 89 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, June 3: The salient features of the budget 1989-90 are as under:-

—The total budgetary outlay of budget 1989-90 will be Rs. [rupees] 206315.6 million. It will be higher by 8.4 per cent than the revised estimates of 1988-1989, which is on account of 8.3 per cent increase in current expenditure and 16.7 per cent in the development expenditure (ADP [Annual Development Program]).

—Defence, debt servicing, investible funds, grants to local authorities and subsidies account for Rs. 122659.3 million constituting 87.4 per cent of the current expenditure of Rs. 100400.2 million. [figures as published] The remaining 12.6 per cent of Rs. 17740.9 million is on other functions, i.e., general administration, law and order, social services, community services, economic services and unallocables.

—The share of current expenditure in the total budgetary outlay will be 68.1 per cent in 1989-90 which is equal to last year's revised estimates.

—The expenditure on running of civil government has been frozen at the level of the 1988-89, it would show a reduction of 14.4 per cent.

—Expenditure on defence has increased to Rs. 51766.7 million or by 1.3 per cent over the revised estimates. The share of defence in current expenditure is 36.9 per cent.

—Transfer of resources to the provinces as their share in divisible taxes has increased substantially. They will receive Rs. 26403.8 million during 1989-90 which will be higher by Rs.2472.6 million or 10.3 per cent than last year's revised estimates.

1989-90 Federal Budget Figures

BK0806131289 Karachi DAWN in English 4 Jun 89 p 1

["Pakistan 1989-90 Budget At a Glance"]

[Text]

1989-90 Budget (Rs [Rupees] in million)

1. REVENUE	
A) TAX REVENUE	99063.5
Taxes on Income and Wealth (Direct Taxes)	15421.0
Taxes on Commodities and Transactions (Indirect Taxes)	83642.5
B. NON TAX REVENUE	40407.9
Income from Property & Enterprises	27631.9
Receipts from Civil Administration and other Functions	12776.0
C. SURCHARGES	10595.7
Natural Gas	(4909.7)
Petroleum	(5686.0)
D. TOTAL GROSS REVENUE RECEIPTS (A+B+C)	(150067.1)
Less Provincial shares in taxes	26403.8
E. NET FEDERAL REVENUE (1)	123663.3
2. CURRENT EXPENDITURE	140400.2
General Administration	6073.2
Defence	52220.0
Law and Order	3293.7
Community Services	2027.1
Social Services	4870.1
Economic Services	1016.3
Subsidies	7585.4
Debt Servicing	59479.4
Grants to AJK [Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Railways & Others	3827.8
Unallocated	7.2
FEDERAL REVENUE ACCOUNT DEFICIT (1-2)	(-)16736.9
GRANTS TO PROVINCES	9915.4
SURPLUS AVAILABLE FOR DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE CAPITAL	(-)26652.3
A) INTERNAL RESOURCES (1+2)	3162.1
1. Federal Government	(-)376.7
(i) Revenue Surplus	(-)26652.3
(ii) Net Capital Receipts	26275.6
(a) Capital Receipts	(48494.5)
(b) Capital Disbursement	(22218.9)
2. Self financing by Autonomous Bodies	3538.8
B) EXTERNAL RESOURCES	40983.1
(i) Project Aid	(14388.1)
(ii) Non Project Aid	(26595.0)
Total (A+B)	44145.2
[C)] Development Expenditure	56000.0
(i) Federal Government (a+b+c)	41252.4
(a) Departments	17729.5
(b) Autonomous Bodies	21422.9
(c) Fertilizer	2100.0
(ii) Special Development Programme	3627.0
(iii) Provincial ADPS [Annual Development Programs]	12800.0
Punjab	6595.0
Sindh	2702.0
NWFP [North-West Frontier Province]	2177.0
Baluchistan	1326.0
Total (i+i+iii)	57679.4
Less operational shortfall	(1679.4)
GAP [Expansion not known] (A+B) - (C)	11854.8

Sri Lanka

Official on School Closure, IPKF Pullout

BK0806112889 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 8 Jun 89

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs and the state minister of defense, Ranjan Wijeratne, briefing the newsmen after the weekly cabinet meeting last night, said the cabinet after considering a proposal by the minister of education, cultural affairs, and information, W.J.M. Lokubandara, decided to close all schools for 2 days. He said that the government did not want to see the school children misled by hooligans who try to make use of students for their political gains.

Mr Wijeratne also told newsmen last night that the foreign secretary, Bernard Tilakaratna, who left for India with a special message from President Premadasa to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi returned to the island last night. Mr Wijeratne said that he would be carrying a reply from the Indian prime minister. He also said that India has already indicated her wish to withdraw the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] and the logistics could be discussed.

In reply to a question, the minister said the president will be making an announcement in the next few days on the referendum to be held in the Eastern Province.

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